Tria. Leg. 1.

TRIANA,

Or a Threefold

ROMANZA

Of { *Mariana*. *Paduana*. *Sabina*.

Omne tulit Punctum qui miscuit utile dulci.

LONDON,

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2.

TRIANA

Or a Threefold

ROMANZA

To the Reader.

IT is hard to say whether it is worst, to be Idle or ill imploy'd; whilst I have eschewed the former, I have fallen on the latter; and shall by the severer sort be censured for misspending my time.

Let such I pray beare my Plea, and I dare make my accusers my Judges herein, that is not lost time which aimes at a good end; Sauce is as lawfull as meat, recreation as Labour, it hath pleased me in composing it, I hope it may delight others in perusing it.

I present not a Translation out of the Spanish, or from the Italian Originall; this is the common Pander to ment fancy, hoping to vent them under that title with the more applause. These my play-labours never appeared before, and is an essay of

To the Reader.

what hereafter may be a greater volume.

Things herein are composed in a generall proportion to truth, and we may justly affirme,

Vera si non scribimus, scribimus veri similia, *I will not be deposed for the exact variety of the gravest passages: in the greatest historian a Liberty hath ever been allowed to fancies of this nature, alwaies provided, that they confine themselves within the bounds of probability.*

Thus wishing every faithfull Lover Feliciano's *happinesse, every good wife* Facundo's *Love, every true servant, servant,* Gervia's *fortune, every Maiden-Lady,* Fidelio's *constant affection, every faithfull friend* Vejetto's *successe, every clownish foole,* Insuls *his mishap, and every cruell wanton,* Nicholayo's *deserved punishment: I leave thee to the perusall: ever of, censure not so rigidly, lest you blast a budding Writer in the blossoming of his endeavours.*

TRIANA

MARIANA.

IN the City of *Valentia*, *Metropolis* of the *Kingdom*: so named, which with many other Dominions are the tributary ooks discharging themselves into e Ocean of the *Spanish Monarchy*, welt one *Don Durio* a Merchant of eat repute. For as yet the envious nds had not (as at this day) obructed the Haven in *Valentia*, but at it was the principall port in ose parts.

This *Don Durio* had advanced an state much by Parcimony, more by apine, being halfe a Jew by his *extraction*; and more then three quarters thereof by his *Conditions*, being

a notorious oppressor. But growne very aged, and carrying his *Eyes* in his *pockett*, *Teeth* in his *Sheath*, and *Feete* in his *Hands*, he began with remorse to reflect on the former part of his Life with some thoughts of restitution, to such whom he had most injured.

This his intention he communicated to one *Francisco* a Frier, and his *Confessor*: *Francisco* was glad to see such a qualme of Religion come over his heart, and resolved to improve it to the uttermost. Hee perswades him that restitution was a thing difficult and almost impossible for one in his condition, so many were the particular persons by him wronged: the shortest and surest way was for him to consigne his only Daughter *Mariana* to be a Nun in the Priory of St. *Brigett*, and to endow that Covent with all his Lands: which exemplary piece of his liberality, would not only wi

th

the luſtre thereof out-ſhine all his former faults: but alſo be a direction to poſterity how to regulate their eſtates on the like occaſion. *Don Durio*, though flinty of himſelf, yet lately ſoftned with Age and ſickneſſe, entertaines the motion, not onely with contentment, but with delight, and will not be a day older before the ſame be effected.

But there was a materiall perſon, whoſe conſent herein muſt be cõſulted with, even *Mariana* his Daughter, who had not one ounce of *Nuns* fleſh about her, as whom nature had intended not as a dead ſtake in a hedge to ſtand ſingly in the place: but as a plant to fructifie for poſterity. Beſides, ſhe had aſſured her ſelf to one *Fidelio*, a Gentlemã of ſuch merit, that though his vertues ſtarted with great diſadvantage, clogg'd with the waite of a neceſſitous fortune: yet ſuch the ſtrength and ſwiftnes thereof, that he very ſpeedily came (not

being above the years of two and twenty) to the marke of a publique reputation; but theſe things were carried ſo cloſely between them, and all leakes of ſuperſtition were ſo cunningly made up, that neither friend nor foe, had gained the leaſt glimps of their intentions.

Don Durio, Franciſco being in his preſence, importunes his Daughter (a hard taske) to bury her beauty under a vaile, and become a *Frigittine.* What he propounded with a fatherly bluntneſſe, *Franciſco* ſharpens with the edge of his wit, heightning the happineſſe of a recluded Life to the Skies, and above it; A diſcourſe very unwelcome to *Mariannaes* Eares, racketted between two dangers on either ſide. If ſhe ſurrender her ſelfe herein to her Fathers will, ſhe is undone, and what ſhe values above her ſelfe, *Fidelio* ruined: If ſhe deny, ſhe expoſeth her ſelfe to the juſt cenſure of diſobedi-

ence: yea it puts a light into the hand of herſuſpitious Fathers therby to diſcover her intentions, that her affections being preingaged, obſtructed the acceptance of this Motion. No time is allowed her to adviſe, in a moment (almoſt) ſhe muſt conſult and conclude, and reſolved at laſt to comply with her Fathers deſires for the preſent, not deſpairing, but that courteous time, in the proceſſe thereof, would tender unto her ſome advantage, whereby hereafter ſhe might make a faire evaſion.

But her Father hurries her in her preſent attire, (as good enough for a mortified mind, without allowing her reſpit of of exchanging) unto the Covent. *Franciſco* leades the way, *Don Durio* followes, and *Mariana* comes laſt; her countenance was neither ſo ſad, as to betray any diſcontent, nor ſo blith and cheerefull as to proclaime any likeneſſe there-

in: but so reduced, and moderately composed, as of one that well understood both what she was leaving off, and what she was entring into. And if the falling of a few teares moistened her cheekes, it was excusable in one now taking her farewell of her former friends: and her Father beheld the same as the Argument of good nature in her.

Ringing the Bell at the *Covent* Gate, the watchfull Porter takes the Alarum and presently opens: for though it was something difficult for strangers to have excesse into the Covent, yet the presence of Frier *Francisco*, was as strong as any *Petar*, to make the sturdiest gate in the Covent pliable to his admission. Out comes the *Lady Abbesse*, who had now passed Sixty winters, and carried the repute of a grave and Sanctimonious Matron: A strict disciplinner she was of the least wantonnesse of any committed to her charge, reputed

puted by most to her virtuous dispositiō, but ascribed by others to her envy, driving away those delights from others which formerly had flowne away from her selfe.

Francisco with a short speech acquaints her with the cause of their comming, surrenders *Mariana* to be a Probationer in their house; whom the *Abbesse* welcommeth with the largest expressions of love to her, and thankefulnesse to her Father, highly commending *Don Durio* his Devotion, that whereas many Parents blessed with a numerous issue grudge to bestow the tythe thereof on a Monasticall Life: such is his forward zeale as to part with all his stock, and store, not repining to conferre his sole daughter and heire to a religious retirement: Then taking their leaves each of other, they depart, leaving *Mariana* with the *Abbesse*.

Millescent a Nun of good esteeme

and great credit; is assigned by the Abbesse to goe along with *Mariana*, and shew her all the roomes, walkes and rich untensills of the house; especially she is very carefull to reade unto her a large Inventory of all the reliques therein, with their severall miraculous operations. The points of St. *Rumballs* Breeches (among other things) were there showen, the touching whereof would make barren women fruitfull: and many other seeming toyes of soveraigne influence. Passing through by the Southeast corner of the Cloyster *Mariana* cast her eye on an arched vault, enquiring the use thereof, and whether the same did conduct; *Millescent* answered, that in due time her curiosity therein should be satisfied to her owne contentment, but as yet she was not capable of any intelligence therein, which was one of the mysteries of the house not communicated to novices at their first admission, but reserved for such, who after

after ſome convenient time of abode there, had given undoubted teſtimony of their fidelity to that Order. And here we leave *Mariana* having more muſick and leſſe mirth then ſhe had at home.

The newes hereof was no ſooner brought to *Fidelio*, but it moved a ſtrange impreſſion upon him. *Were I aſſured that the Reader hereof was ever found in love, and that his breſt was ever through warned with chaſt fires of a conſtãt miſtreſs, it would ſpare me ſome pains to character* Fidelio *his ſad condition. For then my worke is eaſily done, onely by appealing to the Readers experience, who out of a ſympathy is able to make more then a conjecture of* Fidelio's *ſad eſtate, daily languiſhing for the loſſe of his Love, as dead (whilſt living) unto him.*

His Penſive poſtures, ſad looks, ſilent ſighs, affected ſolitarineſs, ſequeſtring himſelf from his moſt familiar friends, was obſerved by *Ardelio*, by whom he was intirely beloved, *A da-*

Ardalio using the boldneſſe becomming a friend, examines *Fidelio* of the cauſe of his ſuddaine change. *Fidelio* for a time fences himſelfe with his owne retiredneſſe, and fortifies his ſoule with reſolutions of ſecrecy. The other plants the Artillery of his importunity againſt him, by the force thereof *Fidelio* is beaten out of his hold, & won at laſt to unboſome his grievance to *Ardalio*, who had promiſed, that *Midnight* ſooner ſhould be found a *Tel-tale*, & *Truſt* it ſelfe become a *Traytor*, rather then he would diſcover any thing prejudiciall unto him. Imboldned wherewith, *Fidelio* confeſſeth that *Marianas* reſtraint in a Nunnery into which ſhe was lately thruſt, by her parents power (as he verily beleeved) againſt her own will, and without his knowledge.

Had ſhee been taken priſoner by the *Turke*, ſome hope would have been to procure her *Liberty*

berty by ranſome, had *Pirates* ſurpriſed her, mony might have purchaſed her freedome; whereas now no hope of enlargement, it being no leſſe then Sacriledge accounted by force or fraud to practice her delivery from that Religious ſlavery.

Be content (ſaith *Ardalio*) and I will make you maſter of a project, which without any danger ſhall bring your Miſtreſſe into your poſſeſſion; turne therfore all your Soule into eares & liſten to my diſcourſe, wch though ſeemingly tedious in the relating, the ſame will make your attention, not only a ſaver, but a gainer by the rich concluſion thereof.

Some twelve yeares ſince, when a Frier was buried in the Benedictine Covent all the Schoolehoyes in Valentia (among whom I aſſure you I was none of the meaneſt) invited themſelves to bee

pre-

present at the solemnity, now whilst others were crowded into the Chappell to see the performance of the Obsequies, I know not what conceit made me a separatist from the rest of my companions. And as I was walking in a Corner between the Conduit and the Hall, I happened into an old Roome which led me into a Vault lighted onely with one squint-eyed Window, going somewhat further therein, my heart began to faile me with the fresh remembrance of those Tales of Bugbears wherewith my Nurse had affrighted my infancy from ponds and places of danger; however taking heart I resolved to discover the issue of that winding Vault.

And

And here you must forgive me, if I have forgotten some circumstances herein, my memory which never was very loyall may be pardoned for betraying some passages after twelve yeares past: let it suffice that I remember so much as will make you happy if wisely prosecuted, this was the result of my adventure, that as our River Anas *is reported to run some miles under ground, and afterwards spring up againe. So I drowned under dry earth, (if you will allow the expression) was boyled up againe in the Nnnnery of the Bridgitines, you will hardly beleeve with what amazement the Nunns beheld me, who had entred*

their

their Cloyſter that unuſuall way never as yet (as it ſeemes) traced with boyes feet, but by thoſe of more maturity, whoſe company might bee more acceptable unto them: They loaded me with kiſſes and ſweet meates, for beleeve mee (Fidelio) how meane opinion ſoever you may now have of my handſomneſſe, if my picture then taken, and the report of my Mother may be beleeved, I was not unhandſome. In fine, they flattered and threatned me not to diſcover which way I came thither, which if once I made knowne, thouſand of Devills would torment. From which day to this it never came into my head; my memory having

having now made ſome amends for its former forgetfulneſſe by this ſeaſonable ſuggeſtion thereof unto mee, when it may befriend your occaſions. If therefore you can convey your ſelfe by this paſſage into the Nunnery, I leave the reſt to bee ſtewarded by your owne Ingenuity.

But which way ſaid (*Fidelio*) ſhall I contrive my undiſcovered comming thither, ſhew me but a way preſenting but halfe the face, yea but a quarter face of probability, and I ſhall kiſſe that, and thanke you for the ſame.

I will furniſh you with all requiſites for the Adventure: I have an uncle living at Lisborne *provinciall of the Benedictines in Spaine,*

Spain; his hand when a boy I have often counterfeited for harmleſſe cheats levell with my age, ſo livelily, that I have perſwaded him to confeſs it his own, and great the familiarity between my Uncle and Franciſco, *who here is the Benedictine Abbot. I will provide all things for you, and fit you with the habit of their Order, leaving the reſt ſtill to be improved by your own Art and Induſtry. For where a friend tenders one hand to draw you out of the Mire, if you aſſiſt not to make up the reſt by your own Endeavours, even lie there ſtill to your own ſhame and with no pity of mine.*

They

They depart, resolving next morrow to meet, when all necessaries should be provided. In the meane time, *Fidelio* goes to the Covent of the *Bridgittines*, and walkes under a Window thereof, the which (as he was informed and his intelligence therein not untrue) belonged to the Chamber of *Mariana*. She discovers him there, and presently rends out of her legend the first white leafe which had not blushed (as the rest) for the lies and impudencies which were written therein; which *Paper* she imployes for a *Letter*, and looking out of the window, casts the letter down unto him who stood ready beneath to receive the same, and surely had the *Letter* been but ballanc'd, with any competent waight put therein, it had not missed his handsfor whom it was intended.

What a pity was it, that *Æolus* was never in love, or that the *Winds* are too boisterous, or to cold to be melted

ted *Affection.* Except any will say that a Gale of wind was ambition, to kiſs the letter of ſo fair a hand, and overacted its part therein.

Sure it is that a ſmall blaſt thereof blew this Letter over into the Garden of *Albeſſe*, where ſhee was viewing of her Bees. Her Ladyſhip betakes her ſelfe to her glaſs-eyes, and peruſeth the following contents thereof.

Fidelio,

HElp me with thy imaginations, and know me here more miſerable then I can expreſs, here is nothing leſſe then that which is pretended, a chaſt miſtriſs which in due time may be a chaſt wife, may ſtock a hundred Nuns with Virginity; work my deliverance

rance if thy affections be unfeigned; or I am undone

Mariana.

Short and ſweet ſaid the *Abbeſſe*, the leaſt *Toades* have the greateſt *Poiſon*, and then up ſhe flies wraged with anger, (which otherwiſe could ſcarce crawle) to *Marianaes* Chamber where ſhe ſo railes on her, that a Purgatory hereafter might have been ſpared for having one here.

And becauſe ſhe had defamed the whole Covent, the heavieſt pēnance muſt be enjoyned unto her, to be ſtript naked to the middle in the *Hall* at dinner time, where ſhe was onely to be feaſted with laſhes, each *Nun* inflicting one upon her, and then the *Abbeſſe* to conclude *ſans* number: as many as her own diſcretion was pleaſed to lay on her.

But *Mariana* partly with grief, and partly with fear, fell ſo terrible ſick that

that night that her life came into deſpair, the onely reaſon (as I take it) why her pennance was put off to another time: till ſhe might be the more able object of their cruelty. For the *Abbeſſe* reſolved, that what was deferred ſhould not be taken away, being ſo far from abating the principall, She intended *Mariana* ſhould pay it with intereſt, and give ſatisfaction for the forbearance of this Diſcipline, when in any tolerable ſtrength to undergo it.

By this time *Ardalio* had compleated *Fidelio* with all neceſſaries in the habit of a Frier, who thus accoutred, advanceth in his formality to the Covent, where he is preſently brought to *Franciſco*, to whom hee delivered this enſuing Letter.

Dear

Dear Brother, 1

I Send you here my ſelfe in my friend, who was he as well known to you as to me, his vertues would command your affections, if not admiration; Our Covent hath this laſt hundred years, (ſince the firſt foundation therof) been eſſaying and endeavouring to make up a compleat man, which now in ſome meaſure it had effected in the bearer hereof; when beheld envious death repining at our happineſſe, had laboured to fruſtrate the ſame; ſo that this pearleſſe peece of devotion, was ſcarce beſtowed on us, when almoſt

most taken away from us by a violent ſickneſſe, whoſe abated fury terminated at laſt, in a long and languiſhing quartain ague, which his hollow eyes and thin cheekes do too plainly expreſſe; exchange of Aire is commended unto us, for the beſt if not onely Phyſick: let him want nothing. I pray your houſe can afford, and burthen him with as few queſtions as may be, it being tedious to him to talk, and his infirmity hath much diſinabled his intellectualls, and know that your meritorious kindneſſe therein, ſhall not onely oblige me to a requitall, but an engagement on all Lovers of vertue, to whom this our Brother Feſtucaes

worth

worth is or hereafter may be known.

Your loving Friend

PEDRO *di* RONCA.

Franciſco embraceth him with all dearneſſe, the viands of the houſe are ſet before him, whereof *Fidelio* took a moderate repaſt; all the Monks of the houſe ſeverally ſalute him, and demanded of him ſeverall particulars of their Covent at *Liſborn*, as of the Scituation, Indowment, Number, Names, and punctuall obſervances therein.

To all theſe *Fidelio* returned generall anſwers, under the coverts whereof he might the eaſier conceal his own ignorance; as for the indowment of the houſe, hee profeſsed himſelf a meere ſtranger thereunto, and that hee affected ignorance therein, as conceiving

ceiving it reſented too much of worldly imployment, wheras his deſire was, that better things ſhould engroſſe hisſoule. This excuſe was heard with admiration, increaſing the opinion they had preconceived of his holineſſe: when they ask him ſuch queſtions, to which he could returne no anſwer at all, he would fall into a ſeeming tranee, darting his eyes, and moving his lips, as in pious ejaculations, as not liſtning to what was ſaid unto him, whilſt the others out of maner'y devotion, let fall their queſtions, and would preſſe them no farther, as loath to interrupt his ſoule in more ſerious and ſacred employment; beſids *Franciſco* gave a ſtrict command that none ſhould diſturb him with needleſſe queſtions, but leave him to the full imployment of his own meditations.

Some ſix daies after, *Fidelio* obſerving the directions of *Ardalio* his friends

friend, finds out the foreſaid vault, and accordingly went forward therein, till at laſt he came to a great Iron Gate, which was ſhut and obſtructed the way: This Gate was either not ſet up, or not ſhut up, when *Ardalio* made his paſſage this way. *Fidelio* falls a muſing, finds all his hopes prove abortive, with no poſſibility of further proceeding, when looking ſeriouſly on the Gate, which was enlightned through a ſmall hole, preſenting but twilight at noon day, he diſcovered an inſcription thereon, which he read to himſelf, with a voice one degree above whiſpering.

Fair Portreſſe of this privy Gate,
If any Sifter want a Mate,
Lift up the Barre and let me in,
It ſhall be but a veniall ſin.

Inſtantly the Gate flew open, and *Fidelio* is left to wonder, what ſe-

cret Spell, and hidden Magick, were contained in thoſe verſes, that ſo immediatly they ſhould procure his admittance. But preſently the Riddle is unfolded, finding a *Nun* behind the dore, where ſhe kept her conſtant attendance, and to whom theſe verſes were the wonted watch-word to open the Gate: recollecting his Spirit, he accoſted the Siſter, deſiring to be conducted to *Mariana*, whom he underſtood (for the fame thereof had gotten out of the Covent) was very ſick, and he ſent from Father *Franciſco* to provide ſome Ghoſtly counſell for her, and what els her preſent condition ſhould require.

He is carried unto her Chamber, who being at the preſent aſleep, hee entertained himſelf in the next room by looking on a *Picture*. Herein Saint *Dennis* was ſet forth, beheaded by *Pagan Tyrants*, and afterwards carrying his head under his arm

arm ſeven miles from *Paris* to Saint *Dennis*. *Fidelio* ſmiling thereat to himſelf, thought that Saint *Dennis* in that poſture had an excellent opportunity to pick his teeth.

Mariana is awaked, *Fidelio* called in, who claiming the priviledge of privacy, as proper for a Confeſſor, all avoid the room, then putting off his diſguiſe, he briefly telleth her what dangers hee had undergone for her deliverance, informeth her that next morning hee would be ready with horſes and ſervants, at ſuch a corner of the Garden, where without any danger, they had contrived a way for her eſcape. *Fidelio's* preſence is better then any Cordial!, *Mariana* recovereth her ſpirits, is apprehenſive of the motion, promiſeth to obſerve time and place, they are thrifty in their language, ſpeak much in little laviſh, no minuts in complements: but are perfectly inſtructed in each others deſignes.

Presently in comes the *Abbesse*: *Fidelio* (having first recovered his coole) proceeds in a set discourse of the praise of patience, commending it to *Mariana* as the most necessary vertue in her condition; and after some generall salutes to the *Abbesse*, recommendeth his *Patient* to her care, and takes his own opportunity to depart, returning to the Covent of the *Benedictines* as undiscovered as he came thence.

That night, befriended with the dark, under the mantle thereof, *Fidelio* gets out of the Covent, repairs to his friend *Ardalio*, reports all the particulars of his successe, triumphs in the hopes of his approaching happinesse, counts the time which we generally complain doth fly, a Cripple, that crawles, so long each minuit seems unto him, untill ten of the clock next morning should be accomplished.

Next day *Mariana* riseth from her bed,

bed, craves leave of the *Abbesse* to go into the Garden, which is granted her; So that *Millescent* a prime Nun were to attend her. *Millescent* adviseth her to wrap her selfe warm for fear of a relapse, for the Ayr (saith she) is piercing, and your body weak.

Indeed (quoth *Mariana*) I am sensible of much strength in a short time, and believe my selfe able, to run a race with you, who shall first come to yonder Corner; done said *Millescent*, and let the lagg that comes last to the place, say over her Beades for us both. *They start together.*

Have you ever heard the Poets fiction of *Atlanta's* running, when only her covetousnesse to get the golden Ball made her lose the race. Alas her swiftnesse was nothing in comparison of *Marianaes*; It seems that *Cupid*, who had shot the piles of his arrowes into her heart, had tied the

thers or wings thereof unto her feet.

The wall of the *Nunnery* was on the one ſide filled up with Earth, on the out-ſide there was a deſcent of ſome four yards; *Fidelio* ſtood ready to entertain her. *What will not fright and love do?* *Mariana* conſults not any danger, nor did ſhe carry a ſcale in her eye to meaſure the depth of the wall: but croſſing the Proverb, *ſhe leapes before ſhe looks*, *Fidelio* ſaveth her almoſt halfe the way of her journey by catching of her in his armes, and before the ſucceeding minut had ſupplanted its Predeceſſor, ſhe is mounted by his ſervant behind *Fidelio*, and all ſpeed they make to a Chappell, wch might ſerve for an *Hoſpitall*, for it was blind, and the Prieſt dumb, yet had tongue enough to tie that knot which none of them was able to undoe.

But tired *Milleſcent* with much pant-

panting had recovered the corner, & seeing *Marianaes* escape, cryed out, *she is gone, she is gone*; this gave an *Alarum to the Abbess*, who instantly conceived her in a sound; It is, said she, the just reward of her adventure, that contrary to my Counsell went abroad. Out comes the whole Regiment of *Nunnes* with hot waters and Cordialls, to tempt her soul, if not too far departed, to return to her body, they are soon sensible of their mistake, and behold her almost got out of sight, so that the longer they looked, the less they saw her, till distance at last made her vanish away. Many a *Nun* a *Spectator* hereof, wisht themselves an *Actor* upon the same termes, commending her adventure in their hearts, who condemned her most in their discourse.

Fidelio with *Mariana* his wife returned to a private house in *Lisborn* prepared for this purpose, but

oh the quick intelligence that *Friers* have, ſure their ſoules all ſcent; all Eyes and Ears, that diſcover things ſo ſoon, ſo far off. They were juſt ready to ſit down at Supper, onely expecting the comming of his dear friend *Ardalio*, when in comes a man or a Tiger (ſhall I ſay) Nature might ſeeme to intend him for the latter, ſuch his fierce aſpect and hairy face, the terribleneſſe whereof was increaſed with his affected antique attire, by his place he was the *Jaylor of the houſe of Inquiſition*, and preſently he ſhewed a caſt of his office, by ſeizing them both his Priſoners. Yet might they have had the happineſſe to have been ſent to the ſame Priſon, it would have afforded ſome mitigation of their miſery; this would not be granted, though *Mariana* with importunate tears requeſted it; but they were diſpoſed into ſeverall Jayles, where neither of them was ſenſible of their own

condition, being totally taken up with the mutuall bemoaning the one of the other

This is one commendable quality in the *Spaniards*, Prisoners are not long delayed to rot in the Jayle, where is life worse then death it self, but are brought to a speedy tryall, either to be condemned or acquitted. Next day they both are brought before the *Judges*, and condemned ot die; He for *Sacriledge*, for soliciting a Votary out of the house, she for carrying away a golden Medall wherein was the Picture of Saint *Bridget*, which she casually borrowed, having no felonious intention, as meaning to restore it, but surprised on a suddain, had no leisure to make restitution. All conceived that the rigor of rigors was extended unto them, & by *Francisco* the *Fryer*, though not visibly appearing.

Don Durio hearing that his Daughter was to be executed, his Paternal

affections retreated to his heart, and there made a *Stand*, projecting with himself how to prevent this mischief. And here I must trouble the Reader, to go back in reporting an accident that happened twenty years agoe.

It chanced that *Philip* the second (alwaies wealthie and alwaies wanting) was forced on a suddaine to send forth a great Fleet against the *Turk*, he borrowed a considerable sum of money of *Don Durio*, for the payment whereof *Don Durio* was a daily suppliant to the Court, as constant at the gate as the Porter, plying the King with importunate Petitions, all which ended in delaies, which *Don Durio* rightly expounded to be denialls. Once the Treasurer told him, that it was honor enough for the greatest *Monarch* in *Christendom* to borrow money of him, though he never receive it again. *Don Durio* to make a vertue of

necessi-

neceſſity turned his deſpair into a frollick, and being admitted by friends into the Kings preſence in a Winter morning, caſt into the fire his Obligations which were parcell-ed up in a pretty bundle, deſiring the King to heat his hands thereat. *His Majeſty* was highly pleaſed with the conceit, and the rather becauſe it was more then a conceit, ſaying, it was *the beſt Faggot he ever ſaw, and wiſhed the State of* Senua *would make him the like Bonefire, ſwearing by Saint* James (*his uſuall Oath*) *that if ever* Don Durio *had need of a Court-favour at a dead lift, he ſhould not faile in his expectation.*

The dead-lift, or at leaſt the dying lift was now come, *Don Durio* poſts to the *Madrid*, where the *Spaniſh Court* was kept, and findeth the *King* hunting of a Stag. The old man attends the ſport for a time. The Stag wearied with long hunting took ſoyl, and ran into a great Pond

or

or *dwarff-Lake*, hee recruited his strength as old *Æson* did in the Bath of *Medea*, and came forth as fair and as fresh as when roused in the morning, then setting his Haunces against the Parke pale, (Reader if a *Forrester* pardon my language if improper) hee dared the *Doggs* to set upon him whilst the hounds stood disputing with themselves (for the Kings doggs we know can make syllogisms) whether the honor or the danger were the greater to adventure on their Foe, & whilst they stood declining the hazard one to the other, out steps a cowardly keeper, & with a brace of bullets killeth the Stag dead in the place: who could he have borrowed a tongue from the standers by, first he would have curst that *Frier* of *Mentz* for first finding out the hellish invention of Gunpowder: and then hee would have bequeathed himselfe to have been coffined in paste, whilst the

King

King and his *Courtiers* should be merry at the solemnizing of his Funerall.

The sport being ended, the *King* returned and retired to his Chamber; *Don Durio* makes his addresse to his *Majesty*, who at the first had forgotten him, till his memory was quickned with the effectuall token of the Bonds he burnt; welcome *Woodmonger* said the *King*, thy suite is granted in the asking of it, and presently a large pardon was signed and sealed, which with all possible speed, he carried along with him to *Lisborn*.

But so short the day, so long the way, so bad the weather, that he could not make such speed as he desired, and his friends expected.

The day of execution being come, *Fidelio* is brought to act his part on deaths *Theater*. *Mariana*, though disjoyned from him in Prison to her great grief, now to her greater

grief conjoyned with him at the Scaffold. *Fidelio* begins with a long ſpeech, which ſeems no whit tedious to the Auditors, becauſe done out of a deſign to gain time, in expectation of a pardon, which all underſtood was procured, all Lovers there preſent could have wiſhed each vowell long in his ſpeech, the effect whereof was to adviſe young perſons to confine their affections within ſome probable compaſs of their deſerts, not to wander with their extravagant love above the proportion of their merits: he bemoaneth himſelf much, *Mariana* more, taking on himſelf the guilt of the whole Action, and proteſted that ſhe died Loves true Martyr.

Mariana ſeconded him in this ſad diſcourſe, the purport whereof was, to teach obedience to Children, that they ſhould take heed how they concealed their love from their Parents

rents, in whose meer dispossall they were, and not to conceive that Age superannuated them, or gave them an acquittance from that debt to which nature engaged them.

A *Post* winds his horn, all hear it and welcome, conceiving what indeed it was, the preface to a pardon. *Don Durio* followes the Post all in a sweat, it being almost a wonder that his dried corpes could contribute so much moisture. The pardon is presented to the *Supream Officer*, with much joy and acclamation of the beholders.

Who would think that *Heraclitus* could be so soon turned into *Democritus*? who could suppose that so great an Army of people could in an instant, Faces about, it was hard before to find one merry, now impossible to find one sad, as if by sympathy they had been condemned with *Fidelio*, and accordingly

dingly pardoned with him.

The pardon is read, it was large parchment, in character, but apprehended too narrow in expreſſion, as only for the life of *Mariana*, whoſe Father, *Don Durio*, neither deſired nor endeavoured the life of the other whom he perfectly hated, as conceiving his love a diſparagement.

Writers were in a ſad condition, if ſometimes they might not take upon truſt from their readers more then they are able to pay themſelves; how ſhort would he fall, who would undertake in language to expreſſe the generall ſadneſſe of the Company, but eſpecially of *Mariana* for this unexpected accident. The *Executioner* proceeds to his work, a handkercher being tyed about *Fidelio*'s Face; as one better prepared to feel then ſee death, he is readily provided for the fatall ſtroke,

In

In vain did *Mariana* with much Rhetorick (grief making her eloquent) plead, that the pardons of *Princes* are not to be taken in restrictive sences, that in all things which are doubtfull, men are rather to enlarge it with favour then contract it with cruelty, that though her pardon alone was expreſt, doubtleſſe both were intended, that man and wife were but one, the guilt but one committed by both, and appeales to the judges preſent, if any ſpark of mercy were alive in their breaſts (Judges alway for the greater ſolemnity being preſent at Executions) to improve the ſame on ſo juſt, ſo conſcientious, ſo honorable an occaſion, but as ſoon might a Child have perſwaded the Tide at full Sea to retreat, when inraged alſo with the wind, as her requeſt find any entertainment.

Ardalio was preſent thereat, ſtanding cloſe to Father *Franciſco* the

the great Actor herein, who spurr'd on the *Judges* (whom charity otherwise believed inclined to mercy, to the greatest & speediest extremity) and he desired a private work with *Francisco*, what was whispered between them, was unknown, and mens Fancies variously commented on their discourse, but the truth was, he spake to this effect.

Sir, you have been the grand *Ingenier* of this mans death, whose blood you have sought, being your self guilty of greater offences. A word from your mouth may respit the execution, and reprieve the Prisoner; I protest revenge of my friends blood, if you do not quickly improve your utmost; three minutes is all the time I allow you to thinke or do after I have ended my speech; know you Sir a Vault and a Door between your Covent and the Nuns, contrary to Canons and Laws Ecclesiasticall and Civill; these

things

things ſhal be heightned againſt you with as much earneſtneſſe as my wit and wealth can improve it, intending to bury my eſtate in the proſecution of the death of my friend. Theſe things he uttered with that ſeriouſnes which proteſted no paſſion but a calme ſoul, and ſuch people are trueſt to their reſolutions.

Franciſco went to the prime Officer, and requeſted him (Fryers requeſts in ſuch caſes being commands) to put off the execution for one month, untill his Majeſties pleaſure therein was more perfectly known; for *Ardalio* had given him private information, that the intention of the King was larger then his expreſſion in the pardon, and the Officer complyeth with him in his deſire, and all the company were diſſolved, none being ſad at ſo ſtrange but unexpected an alteration.

All matters were huſht and ſtopped;

ted; *Ardalio* imbraced and feasted by *Francisco*, who bribed his tongue to silence, which the other as ingenuously professed & faithfully performed. The reprieve of *Fidelio* ended in a full pardon, & old *Don Durio* seeing it to be in vain to forbid that match which providence had made, was contented that his Daughter was injointred in a true affection, consented unto their Marriage. Both which lived long, and were blessed with an happy posterity.

FINIS.

TRIANA

And *PADVANA.*

IN the City of *Venice*, there flouriſhed a Marchant as large in eſtate, as narrow in heart, *Mellito Bondi* by name, of a Family more ancient then numerous, and yet more numerous then rich; untill *Mellito* gave the luſter thereunto with the vaſtneſſe of his eſtate. One daughter alone he had; *Paduana* (from the neighbouring place of her birth and breeding) courted by all the *Illuſtriſſimo's* and *Clariſſimo's* of that State, as well ſhe might, having the portion of a Princeſſe in expectation. Yet her wealth was the meaneſt thing about her, whoſe

whoſe vertues and beauty was ſuch, that fame commonly a Lier in the exceſſe, was here a lier in the defect, her large report falling ſhort of the Ladies due deſerts.

Paduana ſolicited to marriage denied all ſuiters, charging all upon the account of her ſtedfaſt reſolutions on virginity; whereas this was but a *blind*, more covertly to conceal her affections, and that exchange of hearts which had paſſed between her and *Feliciano*, a ſojourner in the houſe of her Father.

This *Feliciano* was a proper Gentleman, compleatly educated, whoſe enemies allowed this to be his worſt fault, that he had a prodigall to his Father, who had waſted the large eſtate of his Anceſtors: yet let not old *Andrea* (for ſo was his Father termed) be wholy condemned for an unthrift (the partiall cauſe of his ruine) ſeeing loſſes at Sea, and ill debters at land contri-

buted

buted to his ſpeedier undoing; beſides our foreſaid *Bondi* if ſtrictly examined, could not denie his concurrence thereunto, who by uſurious contracts, and ſiniſter advantages ſpurred him on to deſtruction, who was running too faſt of himſelfe; hereupon in ſome commiſeration he kept *Feliciano* his ſonne, as a gentle-Almſ-man, exhibiting dyet and ſome ſlender accommodations unto him.

The beſt was, the ſcant meaſure of *Bondi* his allowance, was inlarged by his daughters bounty, maintaining him in a faſhionable *equipage*: Thus for a time we leave them to their embraces, ſo much the ſweeter becauſe the ſecreter; waiting the leaſure of every opportunity, and warily ſtealing the ſame.

It happened about this time, that the *Preſident* of *Dalmatia*, languiſhed on a deſperate ſickneſſe, his death being daily expected: This

was

was an office of great honour and expence, which could not be discharged creditably without the annuall expending of so many duckets, which amounts to three thousand pounds sterling of our English money: for though the foresaid *President* had a pension from the State, and a certain *Intrado* from the Gallyes and Garrisons, with some considerable revenues from the demeanes annexed to the place, yet all his perquisits and emoluments audited, the foresaid summe was requisite to carry it forth with any reputation, except some sordid soule was careless of his credit, and would sacrifice the same to publique obloquy.

Mr Vito Bondi was designed by the *Duke and Senate of Venice* successor in this Presidentship of *Dalmatia*: Indeed in Seniority it belonged unto him, and as it was accounted an injury to baulk so good ground, and

passe

paſſe over a man of merit, ſhould the *State* decline his election; So on the other ſide it would have left an indeleble ſhame to *Mellito*, if ſhee ſhould have waved the acceptance thereof.

Mellito quakes for feare to be advanced downward to ſo chargeable a preferment, his covetouſneſſe is above his ambition, and he almoſt dies for feare to heare that the Preſident of *Dalmatia* is dying. The newes of the arriving of a wealthy Ship from *Caro*, or *Conſtantincple*, would be farre more acceptable unto him, then ſuch burthenſome honour.

Now hee had a confident, part Friend, part ſervant, *Gervatio* by name, whoſe ſecreſie hee had balkt, and whoſe tongue he had lockt up with many favours beſtowed upon him. To him he preſumes to impart his grievance in manner following.

Gervatio, I rancke my ſervants in a threefold Order, of Slaves, Servants and friends; of the former I have many fit for ſervile labour, no ingenious imployment: of the middle ſort, I want none, but theſe love mine rather then me: of friends ſervants thou art the chiefe, I make thy owne ingenuity my judge, whether my carriage unto thee hath not rather ſpoke mee a Father to a Child, rather then a Maſter to Servant. Thankefull natures (among whom I ſhall account you till diſcerning the contrary) will ſtudy to deſerve favours beſtowed upon them, which begetteth in me a confidence that I may not ōly ſafely truſt the with an important ſecret, but alſo crave thy

advice

advice therein for my further direction.

Gervatio made a short, but serious protest of his fidelity herein, professing himselfe highly advanced in this trust committed unto him, withall much commending *Bondies* ability to advise himselfe, bemoaning withall his owne insufficiency, who could not harbour so presumptuous a thought, as if the scant measure of his weake judgement could supply any thing wanting in the rich Treasure of his Masters experience: however he promised that his heart should make recompence for his head, and the sincerity of his endeavours make some amends for his other failings and infirmities.

From complements, I fall to the matter in hand, *Bonti* tells him his great desire to decline the costly *Presidentship of Dalmatia*, which by succession when vacant, was certain to descend upon him; he voweth that

he accompted it ill husbandry to sell rich Lands therewith to buy empty Ayre & honorable titles which vanishwith the wearer thereof; whilst his lasting wealth might probably descend to his posterity, & desireth *Gervatio* to mind him of some faire contrivance which might not leave the blur of any suspition behind it, (much lesse come within the reach of probable detection) whereby he might wave that expensive place, though but for a time, untill some other should bee setled in the same.

Presently *Gervatio* his better *genius* prompted him, that if any person how rich soever, if totally deprived of any of his senses, was by the fundamentall Lawes of that State rendered uncapable of the foresaid *Presidentship*. On this undoubted foundation, being a most certaine and well known truth, he bottomed his designe, perswading *Bondi* to counterfeit himselfe stark blind, that

that this infirmity cunningly diſſembled and generally beleeved, would ſecure him out of the diſtance of the danger he feared, being not eligible to the place, while viſited with ſo great a defect.

The plot takes with *Bondi*, who puts it in preſent execution. On the Morrow an entertainment is made, ſome friends invited to celebrate the anniverſary of his birth-day, and *Bondi* proves himſelfe a perfect Miſer, by his ouer plentifull cheer: In the midſt of their mirth, he complains the Roome is dark, commands the windowes to be opened, which was done accordingly. *Bondi* perſeveres in his complaint, that he ſees no more then hee did before. (which in ſome ſence was not untrue) at laſt all meanes uſed to recover light unto him prove in vaine, So that *Juſtice* is not phancied more blind by the *Philoſophers*, nor *Cupid* feined more eyeleſſe by the *Poets*

then *Bondi* was then believed to be.

This accident produced different effects as men ſtood variouſly affected unto him, narrow the number of ſuch who truly loved him, and thoſe few did really pitty and bemone him; more his foes who rejoyced thereat, and made uncharitable cõſtructiõs thereof, as if ſome ſecret wanton intemperance had deprived him of his ſight, none ſuſpected any fraud or colluſion therein. And to make all the ſurer *Bondi* confeſſed that this was a juſt puniſhment inflicted upon him for his pride and ambition, becauſe he ſo greedily had deſired the *Preſidentſhip of Dalmatia*. He acknowledged that he had been no better then a murtherer in his own heart, having often killed the old *Preſident of Dalmatia* in his wiſhes and deſire, the ſooner to pave the way to his owne preferment, and enoble his poſterity with addition of ſo honorable imployment.

Hither-

Hitherto, *Feliciano* and *Paduana*, had managed their affections with all secresy, suffering none to be privy thereunto; But henceforward being ignorant of her Fathers dissimulation, they abstaine not in his presence to passe kisses and courtesies as confident that hee perceived nothing. Whereat the other was enraged above measure: should his daughter being a fit match for a Prince, for Parts, Portion and Pedegree, be cast away on the sonne of a Bankrupt, all whose maintenance proceeded out of his owne purse? hee resolv'd rather to disinherit *Paduana*, then endure this affront, though for the present in silence he digested the same.

The long languishing *President of Dalmatia* puts an end of peoples expectations by his death, and made roome for one to exceed him in his office. The election leaves over *Bondi* by his blindnesse unqualified for

that place, the concernement wherof required one who ſhould bee an *Argus* both for body and minde, ſuch is the neede of his conſtant warineſſe and circumſpection. *Martino Cărnatio* is by generall ſuffrages reputed for the place, legally choſen and ſolemnely ſetled therein; and conducted to *Spolato* by the Gallies of the State, where he began his reſidence, and we meet with no further mention of him.

Soone after the *Duke of Venice* comes to give *Bondi* a viſit, bringing along with him a Chirurgion, whoſe skill as it was diffuſed over all ſores, ſo his maſter-piece was in being an expert *oculiſt*. Indeed the eye is a ſmall volume, but many the leaves (I meane the tunicles) thereof, and much written therein, the eye alone being ſubject to more diſtempers and diſeaſes, then any other part of the Body, ſo many and ſo ſmall the contrivances therein, and no wonder

der if little Watches be quickly out of order.

This *Oculist* (being indeed one of more fame then skill, of more skill then honesty) at the *Dukes* desire made an accurate inspection on *Bondi's* eyes, and pretended that he discovered in both of them a little speck hindering the sight thereof, which with a small Instrument, might easily be cut out, with very little pain: and here he scattered a multitude of hard and long Latin words, which would serve for the titles of the Gally-pots of an Apothecaries shop, which much amused his hearers therewith: I spare the pains to relate them, because questioning the readers skill in understanding thereof, the rather because I question the *Oculist* whether he understood himself in them.

Bondi was now put to it, fearing some violence should be offered to his eyes, where a touch is a wound,

ſuch the tenderneſſe thereof; he thanks the *Chirurgeon* much, and the *Duke* more, for their care and kindneſſe unto him, but is reſolved patiently to bear the affliction laid upon him, which he confeſſes himſelf did juſtly deſerve for his pride and ambition, he hoped his ſoul ſhould be the better for the blindneſſe of his body, and in no caſe would conſent that any experiment ſhould be tryed on him for his recovery.

Here the *Duke* interpoſed his power and flat command, *Signior Bondi* ſaid he, you are not ſo in your owne full and free diſpoſe, but you may and muſt be over-ruled by others for your owne good; we take notice of that worth in you which your modeſty will not owne in your ſelfe, and therefore will not loſe the benefit of ſo uſefull a patriot; you are a ſelfe murtherer, if refuſing thoſe lawfull means whereby Art may befriend Nature, againſt your

your infirmity : As your friend therefore I desire you, as your Prince I command you, as both I enjoyne you without further dispute, to submitt your selfe to this Artist, not doubting but that his learned endeavours, will be crowned with welcome successe.

Wit works in extremity, now or never *Bondi* play thy prizes, with a composed countenance he returns.

My Lord, I am ready with all thankfulnesse to embrace your counsell, and much admire the extensivenesse of your goodnesse, and largnesse of your spirit, that amidst the multiplicity of your State-imployments, your ability is such, and your goodnesse so great, as you will reflect on so inconsiderable a thing as my selfe: But give me

leave

leave to acquaint your grace, I have lately made a vow to my particular Saint, whose aid I have implored (and whose name for some reasons I crave leave as yet to conceal) and have received some assurance from him in a dream, that shortly I shall be bettered by his goodnesse. I call it a Dream, but surely it was not such, wherein Fancy commands in the absence of reason; but certainly my Lord, such was the impression thereof in my soule, that it carrieth with it the presage of somewhat more then ordinary; favour me then only to expect the issue thereof, and if my dream be but a dream, I shall yield my selfe wholly up to be ordered by your graces

pleasure

pleaſure, and thankfully accept what courſe ſoever ſhall be preſcribed unto me. Hereat the Duke was contented, & aftar the exchange of ſome complements, the company departed.

Next day *Bondi* calls *Feliciano*, and ſends him to the ſhrine of Saint *Silveſter* in *Anchona*, deſiring that ſuch as attended thereon, would intruſt him with any parcell of that Saints reliques, (and if Beggers might be permitted to be chuſers) with his hair-girdle which he did wear next his skin, giving commiſſion to *Feliciano* to be bound to what proportion ſhould be required, or to procure ſecurity in the City for the reſtitution of the ſaid reliques in ten daies, and to ſend along with it ſome *Prieſt* eminent for his devotion, upon aſſured confidence, that

the

the vertue of the relique meeting with his prayer, ſhould produce ſome ſtrange effects toward his recovery.

Felician is proud of the imployment, hoping hereby to ingratiate himſelfe, he makes all poſſible ſpeed he can to his journey, but firſt a Saint of his muſt be ſaluted, and the fair hand of *Paduana* kiſt, which done, he ſets forth with ſuch alacrity, as reſolved, that expedition and faithfulneſſe ſhould contend in him, which of them two ſhould ſhare the greateſt part, in performance of *Bondi's* commands.

The day after his departure, *Mounſier Inſuls* a French-man arrives at *Venice*, ſonne and heir to *Mounſier Opulent*, the rich Merchant of *Marſeles*, he had purchaſed three French Counts out of their Lands, beſides a vaſt bank of money in *Venice*, and els-where: The old men ſome months ſince, by letters had con-

concluded the match, between the two ſole children and heires.

Inſuls then comes now, not ſo much to woe as to wed, Portion and Dowry are both agreed on, and nothing wanting (ſave that without which all was nothing) the affections of *Paduana*. This *Inſuls* was a Poeticall fool, an admirer of his owne rhimes, rather then verſes, being but one degree above *Ballads*.

Yet to give him his due, ſometimes he would ſtumble upon expreſſions which might have become a wiſer and learneder Man. And although herein he was generally condemned for a Theefe, that he had ſtolen them from others, (his memory being better, then his fancy) and than confidently vented them for for his owne; yet others were ſo charitable, that he wore not the Perriwigg of other mens witts, but was the true Author of his verſes, for he that ſhoots often at ran-

dom,

dom, may ſometimes unawares hitt the marke, and it is impoſſible that in a million of blanks, one prize ſhould not happen at laſt. Beſides who knowes not, that the verieſt of fooles have not their wiſe intervalls; ſometimes hee would utter himſelfe in convenient language, and quick conceit.

To be briefe, it was a great queſtion whether *Paduana* more perfectly hated him, or more entirely loved *Feliciano*; but her Tyrannicall Father driving that affection which he ſhould draw, and forcing what he ſhould perſwade, vowed by Saint *Silveſter* his uſuall oath, that he would disinherit her of all his eſtate, and leave the ſame to *Georgio Bondi* his Nephew, in caſe ſhe made the leaſt refuſall herein.

In this diſtreſſe *Paduana* makes her addreſſes to *Gervatio* in this manner.

Gervatio,

Gervatio, *you cannot but be ſenſible of reciprocall love, between me and* Feliciano, *for though my Father be blind, you enjoy the benefit of your eyes, nor can we pretend to ſo much ſecreſy, but that one as your ſelfe conſtantly with us, will obſerve ſmoak in a ſigh, and ſparkles in an eye which have paſſed between us; my humb'e requeſt to you is (and do not Miſtreſſes command when they requeſt) that you would invent ſome way to free me from the torture of this Clowne, foole* Inſuls, *and promote my affections where they are beſtowed and deſerved.*

Who would worſhip the ſetting Sunne, when the riſing Sunne doth court him? my Fathers decaying

age

age carries in it a deſpair of long life, whilſt my tender years promiſe a longer continuance; build not therefore but on that foundation which in probability appears the firmeſt; however I would not diſoblige thee from my father, make your own ends upon him, gain of him what you can, & I will confirm it: and over and above I will aſſure thee (ſo farre as my condition is capable to give aſſurance) to gratifie your endeavours to a higher proportion, then you can expect. Is not the houſe in the ſuburbs of Padua, *where I was born, a pretty pile of building? do not forty acres of ground impartially embrace it on every ſide? Is not the Oile in* Lombardy *known to grow*

there?

there? Know Gervatio, *that all these are thine to the reward of thy fidelity; besides I conceal something to my selfe, intending to surprize thee with that, which in my judgment will be considerable in it self, and worthy of thy acceptance.*

Gervatio hereby is made a perfect Convert, he will hold with *Bonda*, but run with *Paduana*, he will look towards the *Father*, but will row with the *Daughter*, and profest his future fidelity unto her with such oaths and imprecations, as commanded her belief.

It happened at this time, a scurrilous, scandalous Libell, made in verse, was cast in the *Piazza* in *Venice*, other copies scattered in Saint *Marks*, and other publick places of the Citty; herein the *Duke* and *Senate* were basely abused, and some lines

lines, ſome ſmall witt ſhewed in the cloſe thereof, (as who cannot be ingenious to abuſe) ſpies are ſet to apprehend the perſon, with promiſes of two hundred Ducketts for his ſervice.

Gervatio, whoſe brains now beat about nothing but *Paduana's* happineſſe, accoſteth *Mounſier Inſuls*, who ever was inquiſitive of newes, asking him what was the tydings of the day: Strange news, ſaith *Gervatio*, an admirable piece of Poetry (but a little ſalt and bitter) is found ſcattered before the *Dukes Palace*, and ſtrange it is, that he who had the witt to make it, had not the wiſdome to affix his name to it.

That is no ſtrange thing (ſaith Inſuls *) for generally the moſt witty are the moſt modeſt, how many hundred nameleſſe copies of mine fly about in* France, *and* Italy, *and*

and others perchance claime the credit thereof, it is a paſſage wherein I have taken ſpeciall contentment, to ſee the impudency and ignorance of thoſe, who will father the iſſues of another mans brain.

Gervatio returned, that ſome hundred Duckets were promiſed to the Author, and he believed that he ſhould be *Poet Laureat* for the State of *Venice*, and wiſhing that he any way might be inſtrumentall in diſcovering the compoſer thereof: *And Mounſier* Inſuls *give me leave to be plain with you, I have a great ſuſpicion (but to recall the word, for ſuſpicion is only for things that are bad, and therefore improper at preſent) I have a ſtrong ſurmiſe that you are the Author thereof.* *Inſuls* laughed with an affected guiltineſſe, and ſaid nothing.

And Sir, (returned the other,) I know you, and none else could do the same: First, I compare the stile and language is like that wherein last night you courted my Mistresse, alwaies full, but not swelling, sometimes humble, but not flat, the rhime good, but not affected, teaching it the true distance thereof, that it must be the vassall not the Master of the Poet, it is neither Virgils *strain, nor* Ovids, *but both; it comes off with a spring in the close, and commonly the two last verses of the Stanza, containes the totall summe of the particulars going before; certainly a vast summe of money would be bestowed on him who was the composer thereof.*

What

What talkest thou to me of money (replyed Insuls) *my Father hath the three best seats in all* Provence, Crassus *and* Cressus *were both of them beggers unto him, I only take up this vein of Poetry for my recreation, and to confute the common observation, that all Poets are Beggers. I am a rich Poet.*

After the exchange of some discourse, *Insuls* shewed himselfe to brook his name, and barely confessed himself to be the Author of the *Poem*, adding withall, that he had made five-hundred better in his daies; But seeing no one drinks alike of *Helicon* at all times, a constant tenure cannot be expected in witts: I was saith he at the penning thereof, not ascending but declining *Parnassus*, and good *Gervat o* make

make not conjecture of my parts on such disadvantages, but that I am able to exceed it on the least occasion: I confesse, Mustard is nothing worth unlesse it bite; I put in little sharpenesse to give it a hogo to the pallate of the Men of these times.

Out springs two invisible witnesse whom *Gervatio* had planted within the reach of their words) and presently seize *Insuls* condemned by his own witnesse. These Informers, the necessary evills in a State, were incouraged in *Venice* by the greatest politicians, conforming themselves to all companies, having a patent to be *knaves* that they might discover *fooles*; seeing no wise men, though dissenting from the present power, will lie at so open a Guard, as to carry their hearts in their tongues.

Insuls is presently hurried to prison; and it is strange to see the suddaine alteration this accident made upon

upon him: hee who at beſt was but halfe a man, was now leſs conſiderable then a beaſt, ſenceleſs & ſtupid, ſcarſe able to write his condition to his Father, ſo that had not ſome Frenchmen by accident viſited him, hee had certainly died in priſon.

Mounſier Opulent hearing of his ſonnes reſtraint, poſts from *France* to *Venice*, the depth of whoſe judgement could onely fathom profit, he was *Sapiens quoad hoc*, wiſe onely in the point of wealth: So that by long living and great ſparing hee had accumulated much wealth, but take him out of his own Element of bargaining, he was ſo ſimple, that hee ſeemed the true originall of his ſon, as his ſon the true tranſcript of his Father.

To *Venice* hee comes, and with large gifts buyes his ſonnes inlargement: the truth was, his ſonnes ſimplenes beſt befriended him, who upon examination appeared unca-

pable

able to be author of the Libell, and in the judgement of all deserved rather to be whipt for a lier (assuming to himselfe what was none of her owne) then to have any severer punishment inflicted upon him.

Young *Insuls* now at liberty backt with his Fathers presence renewes his suite to *Paduana*; Joynture, and a good estate are the invincible arguments which *Mellito Bondi* cannot resist; he engageth so farre at the matter, that onely three dayes respit is allowed to his daughter, in which time she must be *Insuls* his wife, or else no heire to her Father.

In this juncture of time home comes *Feliciano*, bringing with him the Girdle of St *Silvester*, antick for the shape and fashion thereof, as having steele buckles, and a rowell at the end thereof; it was generally beleeved that this was used by *Silvester* in the way of disciplining himselfe, and Father *Adrian* exemplary

ry in that Covent for ſanctity was ſent along with the ſame, ſeeing ſo rich a treaſure was not to be truſted in any lay-hand

A ſolemne entertainment is made in *Mellito's* houſe, and moſt of the *Magnificoes* of the State invited thereunto; but this feaſt had beene uſhered with three foregoing Faſts kept in the family of *Bondi* and his allies for the better ſucceſſe, and more effectuall working of their intended deſigne. After dinner Father *Adrian* mumbles many prayers (it being well if hee underſtood them himſelfe, as confident that none elſe did in the roome) and then ceremoniouſly the Girdle is applied to *Mellito*, but eſpecially the towell thereof (wherein moſt facredneſſe was conceived to conſiſt) ſeverall times rubbed upon his eyes to ſo good purpoſe, that within three howers he ſo recovered his ſight, as to diſcerne and diſtinguiſh the faces of all preſent.

Some of the beholders began to ſuſpect ſome fraud in the matter, only on this account, becauſe the miracle was not inſtantly done, but ſucceſſively and by degrees. Let Drugs, and Herbs, and Minerals, which have a naturall vertue placed in them, proceed ſoftly and ſlowly to effect cures; whereas miracles ride Poſt, and the ſame moment which begins, doth perfect extraordinary operations; this I ſay put jealouſie in the heads of ſome preſent, to doubt the reality of the cure, and ſuſpect ſome deceit in the matter.

But they being but few in themſelves, were quickly overpowred by the number and gravity of thoſe on the contrary opinion; for ſome of them argued, that the rule is not univerſally true, that all miracles ſpring in a moment, ſeeing ſome of them have been of ſlower growth, and the ſame pace hath not alwaies been

been obſerved in miraculous motions; and ſeeing the effects conduced much to the honour of Saint *Silveſter*, every one was ſuſpected for an *Infidell*, that did not preſently believe: yea to doubt the truth thereof, was to diſcover a little Heretick in his boſome that owned the ſuſpicion. Preſently *Bells* and *Boneſires* proclaime the cure all over the City; perſons flocking from all places to behold this girdle, the making and faſhion whereof, being out of the rode of common Girdles, catcht and kept the fancies of fond people, ſome admiring at the matter of it, being they ſaid of a Seal-skine; others at the forme, as at the weight & greatneſs thereof, being almoſt as big as one could well lift; hence ſome inferred Saint *Silveſter* to be of a *Giant*-like proportion, above the ſtandard of other men; others collected the generall greatneſſe of men in former ages, complaining of the de-

cay of nature, and diminution of men in theſe daies; but the more wiſer ſort reſolved it upon a point of religion, that the foreſaid girdle was worn by way of pennance, not ſo much to ſtrengthen and adorne, as to lead and mortifie the wearer thereof.

As for *Bondi* in a large oration, he expreſſed his thankfulneſſe before the company to his titular St, whoſe ſpeech is here too large to inſert, only this by the way, to elaborate, not flowing from him freely on the preſent emergency, but wrought, ſtudied, and premeditated, which again brought new fewell to their jealouſie, which ſuſpected ſome fraud, as if this had been compoſed of purpoſe, and conned by heart before hand, and ſo the ſcene of the deſigne ſolemnly laid; however their budding ſuſpicion was quickly blaſted, and beaten down with the generall congratulation

of

of all people, so that now his recovery was universally believed, so that this miracle gave a super-sedeas to all other discourses in *Italy* for a month, and commonly was the third course at all great Tables, whereon the persons present took their repast.

Next day was the Nuptials of *Insuls* and *Paduana* to be solemnized, had not the seasonable enterposing of *Gervatio* prevented the matter presently, by his appointment, in comes two *Confidents* of *Feliciano's*, (both disguised in the habits of Friers) and boldly presse into the Parlour, and chambers of *Bondi*, looking so scornfully on all accosting them, as if they carried written in their faces a Patent for their own presumption, and knew themselvs to be impowred with an authority above controule. *Bondi* no sooner recovered himselfe out of his amazement which seized him at first,

but that he resolutely demanded of them the cause of their comming, and intrusion at so unseasonable an houre (it being late at night) They seemed careless to satisfie his demands, as a thing beneath them, being imploid in matters of higher concernment; and proceed without any interruption, to draw up an *Inventory* of the severall goods and utensills in his house.

Imprimis, in double guilt plate 500. *ounces. Item, in white plate* 1200. *ounces. Item. in &c.*

Then command they him without delay, to surrender the keyes of his Chests and Coffers, which the other refused to doe, summoning *Gervatio*, *Feliciano*, and all his servants to his assistance, which presently repaired unto him; and though the two former were privy to the plot, yet they so cunningly concealed it in their carriage, that no *tel-Tale* smile, or *blab-lock* of mirth, betrayed the least suspicion of

of their privity thereunto, but compoſed their faces, with reduced countenances, ſpeaking much anxiety and ſuſpence, to attend the iſſue and event of ſo ſtrange an accident. Then the elder *Frier* began, *diſmiſs your ſervants preſently, and let them attend in an outward room, it is a favour we have afforded out of the reſpect to your place, though not deſerved by your perſon, that hitherto we have been tender of your reputation (ſo farre as a crime of this nature was capable thereof) and would not willingly have you ſacrifice the ſmall remaines of your credit to ignominie and diſgrace; we honour the ſilver crowne of age on your head, though it deſerved to be placed on better Temples.* *Bondi* is ſurpriſed with horrour and palſie-ſtrook with fear, being guilty to himſelfe of deceit, cauſeth the room to be voided of all company, and meekly and calmly requeſteth them to impart unto him his offence, and their commiſſion.

The other proceedeth: Crimes though the same in themselves, are not the same when committed by severall offenders, but they commence, and take degrees of hainousnesse from the circumstances of time, place, and person; a concurrence of all these have conspired to aggravate and inflame your guilt; you have a large and plentifull estate, and cannot pretend poverty to your selfe (that engine which forceth ingenious natures to disingenious actions) prompted you to so unworthy a practice: the Duke and State have reflected on you in a great proportion, so that no neglect or discontent received from them could sparre you forward to so dishoneſt a designe; Charity it selfe must turn just against you, and the best rhetorick so farre from defending, that it cannot extuse your offence. What, to counterfeit your selfe blind, and at the same time to give a lye both to Heaven, and Earth, abusing both in one act by an offence, that as former ages will not find an example so future will scarce afford belief thereof.

But

But how hard is it to commit one fault, and but one fault, as vertues are not single stars, but constellations, so vices straggle not alone, but go in companies, and grow in clusters: This ground-platform of your dissembling, must have outward out-works, sconces, and redoubts, to flank, fortifie and defend the same: This mother lye how fruitfull hath it been in a numerous issue of Oaths, and perjuries, as if you intended to scale the Throne of justice, with a series of sin, and draw down revenge on your selfe: At last to close and conclude your villany, you have fa-ther'd the same on miraculous recovery, and have abused your titulary Saint, by pretending his reliques the immediate cause of your restored sight: but that Saint being rich enough in himselfe in reall miracles, disdaineth the addition of your sophisticated actions, and will not be dis-honoured with false honour, which you hypocritically have fastned upon him; yet in detestation of your dissimulation, and to manifest how zealously he disavoweth all

falshood,

falſhood, and forgery, he hath been heard at ſeverall times in the night in his ſhrine with a ſhrill voice to make diſcovery of your falſhood; and now we expect to obtain from his Holineſſe, *and this* State, *a confiſcation of your goods, in order whereunto we are employed by our ſuperiours to take an exact liſt and account of your eſtate, both in Lands and moveables, till we ſhall be further informed how the ſame ſhall be diſpoſed of.*

Bondi looked as pale as aſhes, having ſcarſe life enough left to act his limbs with motion, his guilty conſcience was not at leiſure to enquire into the particulars, but took all for granted, and now expected nothing leſſe but loſſe of goods, and perpetuall impriſonment: For that night the *Friers* are contented to repoſe themſelves, and deferre the reſt of their work till the next morning.

Mean time *Bondi* and *Gervatio* paſſed a ſleepleſſe night, and it would ſwell a volume, to inventory

ry the particulars of their diſcourſe.

Bondi ſometimes is ſilent, and his tears drown his tongue, *Gervatio* deſires to make his countenance to attend his Maſters in all motions, firſt readeth and writeth in his face ſorrow and ſilence alternatly, as directed by his patern: At laſt *Bondi* breaketh forth into the following expreſſions.

Liſten faithfull Gervatio *to the Teſtament of thy dying Maſter, for I am reſolved not to outlive the funerall of my owne credit, and eſtate; I behold my ſelfe only as a ſhaddow, ſtript out of all eſtate, whereof already I have made the forfeiture, yet it grieveth me not for my ſelfe, whoſe decayed age hath rendred me uncapable of much worldly pleaſure; it is not conſiderable with a ſolvable man who hath it by him to pay a due debt, which will be required a month or two before the exact date wherein it is due: I behold long life as the playing out of a deſperate game at Tables loſt, at the firſt remove only, it*

grieveth

grieveth me for my daughter Paduana, whose youth might intitle her to much happineſſe, and her vertues deſerve no leſſe; your heart, ſhe muſt now become the ſcorn and ſhame of the Citty, and as an over-grown flower, wither on the ſtalk whereon ſhe grew, for want of a hand to gather a Husband to marry her.

Curatio rejoyned, I am utterly unable to give Phyſick to your other maladies, but poſſibly may apply a remedy to this, if ſervants may take the boldneſſe to teach their Maſters, and to reprove them too, wherein they conceive them faulty: refuſe not an humble reprehenſion from him, whoſe good intention and heart may make out what is wanting in his tongue and expreſſion; I conceive all this misfortune juſtly befallen you, for undervaluing the merits of Feliciano, and croſsing the affections of your daughter; true it is, his wealth is not conſiderable, but his extraction, education, abilities, and accompliſhment, doth recompence all his other defects; beſides, what loving Parent

would

would stop the affections of his daughter in the full speed and carreere thereof; except she had bestowed them so unworthily, as to intaile shame and disgrace on his Family: Now Sir make a vertue of necessity, and before the matter be publickly known of the confiscation of your fortunes; comply with her affections, and please him in seeing the marriage between them consummated: you may also by my hands derive unto your daughter so much of your invisible estate, as is contrivable in a small room, and may escape the hands of these Harpies: it will be safe in all tempests to have a secure place for anchorage, nor can you have any assurance of a better, then with your dear and dutifull daughter. For suppose (and would it were but a supposition, for the case is too plain and pittifull) that all your estate become a prey to their hands, who never let go what once they lay hold upon: Yet I presume your wealth will be a ransome for your life and liberty, and that you may be permitted freely to breath the Venetian aire, the

short

short remainder of your daies.

Bondi consented to all, as no wonder, for grief had so mollified his heart, it was capable of any impression which bare with it the least probability of comfort, and as a sinking man, made an Oke of an Osier, catcht at any thing to support him from present sinking: The Priest was sent for that night, and though the hower was uncanonicall for marriage (long after sun-set) yet the sun of golden *chicqueenes* will make the other sun rise at pleasure; and *Feliciano* with a largesse to the *Priest*, bought off all irregularity.

Then *Gervatio* took the boldnesse to make another motion. *Sir, I humbly conceive that as yet you are not legally convicted, and that there is still inherent in you a power to make over your estate, for the world as yet takes notice of these clandestine transactions, you are innocent till such time as you are made to be otherwise by publick conviction; I confesse my selfe*

as

as un-skild in any ſcience as ignorant in Law; but Law being founded upon reaſon, me thinks I ſpeak proportionable thereunto, beſid's, my former Maſter was a chief Advocate, and if my memory, or miſapplication thereof faile not, ſuch fragments of his co.nſell ſtill remain in my braines, which he often gave to guilty perſons in this caſe, before their publick condemnation.

Gervatio's counſell paſſed for Oracles with *Bondi*, who in this extaſie of feare ſuſpected all his owne actions, & relied on any mãs advice, who would favour him ſo farre as to beſtow it on one ſo deſpicable and forlorne as he conceived himſelf to be: A *Notary* is ſent for to make a deed of gift of his eſtate as faſt and firme as his skill would give him leave, and now the ſame is ſetled on *Feliciano*.

Feliciano next morning repaires to the two pretended *Friers*, bringing *Bondi* along with him, and deſires to know

know, whether or no it were poſſible to ſopite and ſuppreſſe the infamy of this Action, and to buy off the ſlander with a round ſumme of money inſtantly depoſited. The *Friers* confeſſed the fault great; but becauſe their Covent had been formerly beholding to the bounty of *Bondi*, and becauſe they beheld the fact as of humane frailty and infirmity, to which all men are ſubject, it was hitherto their deſire and deſigne to conceale the ſame, ſo that their *Prior and ſubprior* excepted, none beſide themſelves were privy thereunto, who gave their attendance when the foreſaid voice made the diſcovery: they would therefore endeavour their utmoſt, and nothing ſhould be wanting in them to ſtop the further proceedings thereof, and doubted not but their paines would take the deſired effect, which accordingly in few daies was performed.

A Banquet is made, to which many

of

of the *Venetian Magnificoes* were invited, but *Mounſier Opulent* and *Mounſier Inſuls* his ſonne, becauſe ſtrangers, were by the courteſie of *Italy* preferred to have a prime place among them. There leave we them feaſting themſelves with ſuch variety of dainties, that the appetite of many ſtood long time neuter, not knowing where to fix it ſelfe, courted with equality of variety.

As for *Paduana*, it is pitty to diſturbe her any more with our tedious diſcourſe, leaving her in the imbraces of her deare and vertuous *Feliciano*, whoſe name as it hath in it ſome tincture of happineſſe, ſo took it not its true effect till this time, who now was poſſeſſed of a large and rich eſtate. And *Bondi*, who formerly ſtarved in wealth through the narrowneſſe of his heart, fed better a *Boarder* then a *houskeeper*, having a ſon and daughter to provide plentifully for him, what his covetouſneſſe denied

nied to himselfe, who formerly possest, but now began to enjoy his estate. Let *Insuls* then returne into *France* and court the *Madams* there, whilst *Paduana* rejoyceth in her choyce, and is so farre from measuring her promises to *Gervatio* with a restrictive hand, that she out-did his expectations.

FINIS.

TRIANA AND SABINA.

IN the City of *Barcellona* in *Spaine*, lived a civill Lawyer of great repute, with a name, fitting his profession, *Don Facundo Osorio*, whose Office was parallell to a City Recorder in *England*. He had a wife whom he highly affected, and well might she have merited the same, had the Jewell answered the Casket, and her conditions bore proportion to the rest of her corporall perfections; but there being some disparity in their ages, (earth rather then heaven making the marriage between them for worldly respects) her *green* youth an-

answered not his gray haires with a suitable return of affection.

The truth was, she was rather cunning then chast, and the same was discovered by the friends of her husband, whereof some took the boldnesse to advertise him, that hereafter he might order her with a stricter hand. But I know not by what fate it commeth to passe, that oftentimes their eares and eyes who have least cause are open to jealousie, whilst those are shut thereunto who have just cause to entertaine it: His friends reap nothing but frowns for their faithfull counsell; *Furando* will not believe his wife was otherwise then she should be, measuring her honesty by his owne; yet some score this his good opinion rather on his policy then charity, knowing what he would not acknowledg, lest it should be a disparagement to his reputation; he saw, but was pleased to winke at his wifes miscarri-

carriages; and because he made the match against the advice of his friends, of his owne willfull inclination, he would maintain the ground-work, and owne no error therein, least thereby he should bring his own discretion into question.

One principall friend *Vejeio*, had his house looking into the garden of *Don Nicholajo*, a great Lord of that City, who bare unto him no good-will, because his window hindred his privacy, and was able to tell tales of such passages which he would have transacted in darknesse, without any witnesse. He informes *Facundo* that he had seen some gestures more bold then civill between the Lord and his wife; but *Facundo* still persists in his infidelity, and either believes his wife to be honest, or else acteth the belief thereof so lively, that none could perceive in him, the least suspicion of her loyalty.

Sabina,

Sabina, Facundo's wife, falls now seemingly sick, and personateth a dying woman to the life; her old Nurse who conveyed intelligence between her and the Lord, had instructed her for her behaviour in a design; strange it is how she dissembled herein: so that had *Esculapius* himselfe beheld her (provided he neither felt her pulse, nor consulted with her urine) he might have mistook this his patient to be sick; indeed her husband plies her with Physitians and Physick, all to no purpose, her malady rather increasing, and the fire of her distemper growing the hotter for those cooling jewlips which were tendred unto her.

Don Nicholayo repaires unto her to give her a visit, many good counsels he lavisheth upon her in a long and tedious discourse, and the more tedious because her husband was in the presence, and they two not alone

lone by themſelves; but at laſt he recommendeth unto her a noted *Mountebank*, who had commenced Doctor in the mouthes of the vulgar, and had gained to himſelfe much eſteem, for ſeverall palliated cures performed by him; avowing, that if ſhe ever expected health, that muſt be the happy hand to reach it unto her.

This *Quackſalver* had reaped the credit of many learned mens labours, and leapt into eſteem by the advantage of their endeavours; for when by their learned receipts, ſome able Phyſicians in *Barcelona* had brought their patients to the point of amendement, and reduced their diſeaſes to tearms of eaſie compoſition, this fellow would interpoſe, and inſinuating himſelfe into the ſick mens acquaintance, would preſcribe unto them ſome of his owne medicines, more remarkable for their hard and ſtrange names, then any

other vertue therein: thus carried he away the credit of many cures, and was cried up by the credulous people for eminency in his art; and although the *Spaniards* generally are admirers of themselves, and sleighters of strangers, yet this *Mountebank* being an Italian by nation, had gained among them a great reputation, beholding therein, not so much to his owne learning, as the others ignorance.

Seignior Giovanni was his name, who is presently sent for, he comes, views his patient, and after some short discourse, affirmes her disease mortall, except one herb could be procured for her, which grew but in one place of *Italy*, and must be ceremoniously gathered by his & her hand, which bare the truest or deepest affection to the sick body.

Don Facundo her husband desires the *Mountebank* to enlarge himselfe, concerning the name and nature of the

the foreſaid herb, proteſting he would expend the halfe of his Eſtate for his wifes whole recovery.

The other putting on the vizard of a ſtarcht countenance by pretended gravity, to procure the greater reſpect to himſelfe, and credit to his words, proceedeth as followeth.

Many men are infected with this ſingular error, that they will believe no vertue in drugs, further then they themſelves are able to render the reaſon thereof: whereas nature is rich in many ſecret qualities, which produce occult effects, the herb Lunaria *may be an inſtance, which is the greateſt pick-lock in the world, for let it be gathered on Midſummer eve, juſt at one of the clock, by one looking ſouth-eaſtward, and ſome other*

eſſentiall circumſtances lockt up in the breaſts of artiſts, it will make any Iron bolt to fly open. The herb Stellaria *commeth not ſhort thereof in vertue, as uſefull for thoſe diſeaſes which proceed from hott and dry cauſes; this groweth but in one part of* Italy, *ſome leagues from* Lucca, *and I can give infallible directions for the finding thereof: If therefore the Gentlewoman (feigning himſelfe ignorant that ſhe had a husband) had any confiding friend, which will follow my ſignature, in finding and gathering the ſame (right juſt at this inſtant of the year) this, and this alone will reſtore her to her former health, and I will pawne my credit on the ſame.*

Know

Know by the way, that this *Mountebank* was ſecretly bribed by *Don Nicolayo*, by this deſign to put her husband to run on one of theſe two rocks, either to be cenſured for want of true affection to his wife, if denying to doe any thing in order to her recovery, or els with great hazard to undertake a long and tedious voyage by Sea and Land, to ſeek for a new nothing, whilſt his wife all the while intended to proſtitute her ſelfe to the amorous imbraces of this *Lord*, who had made a mine in her heart, and had ſupplanted her husband in her affections.

Facundo, that he might be exemplary to all husbands, and that her kindred who were many and rich, might the more favourably reflect upon him, from whom he had a fair expectancy of a further fortune, willingly undertakes the voyage, deſiring to be furniſhed with perfect inſtructions from *Giovanni*, for the

finding of the herb, who delivers him a parchment becharactered with barbarous figures (Nets first to raise, and then to catch the fancy of fooles) and some other informations, which should be as so many signs and tokens, whereby he should make the hue and cry to attach and apprehend that guilty herb, which having so much worth and vertue in it selfe, would rather peevishly wither in a private cave, then spend it selfe for the publick good.

Facundo was some miles forward on his journey, when *Vejeto* his former friend privately posted after him, and perswaded him to return, for he had urged such unanswerable arguments, and infallible demonstrations drawn from what he himselfe had seen out of his own window, that at last he prevailed on the belief of *Facundo*, that all was not faire between his wife and *Nicolayo*; indeed when many scattered circum-

circumſtances were carefully put together, and ſeriouſly peruſed, there needed no *Oedipus* to read this riddle, which did interpret it ſelfe; that *Facundo* muſt be ſent a Pilgrimage into *Italy*, to the ſhrine of an unknown herb (the man in the Moon having eaten *Stellaria* long before) that ſo in the vacancy of his Bed, the other might be made the incumbent thereof.

At laſt *Veſto* adviſeth *Facundo* to returne home in a diſguiſe, and pretend himſelfe to be a Brother of his, long ſince employed in the Low-Country warres, and now at laſt loaden with wounds and wants, returned to bequeath his aged body to his native Country. *Facundo* conſents, hoping by the well management of this project, either to prevent, or els to diſcover his wifes unfaithfulneſſe.

Now whilſt *Veſto* is accommodating his friend *Facundo*, with all

neceſſaries (the badges of an old Souldier) all eſſentialls thereunto could not be ſo conveniently procured, but that *Infido*, *Vejeto's* ſervant was employed in compleating his proviſions: a crafty fellow, who could ſteal light from a ſmal cranny, and light a candle at a little ſpark, knowing how thriftily to improve a *ſmall diſcovery* to the *greateſt advantage*. *Don Nicholayo* paid a yearly penſion to this *Infido*, to furniſh him with intelligence againſt his Maſter, who now revealed all the deſign unto him, for which he received a conſiderable reward, and *Sabina* is throughly inſtructed to behave her ſelfe in the proſecution of the matter.

Facundo comes to his owne houſe, metamorphoſed to a *Reformado*, his clothes having ſo may rents in them, as preſumed to cover more wounds under them; a ſword by his ſide which had contracted ruſt, ſince the laſt

laſt truce; knocking at the door, his wife ſends forth a lamentable ſhreek, to evidence the continuance of her ſickneſſe not diſſembled, and *Facundo* (a man of more eloquence then valour) begins to quake, and condemns his own return; but now he was engaged ſo farre, paſt hope of retreating, that he muſt either march forward with confidence, or return with ſhame: being entered into the houſe, where he acquaints the ſervant that he was *Strenuo* the Brother of *Facundo*, and is conducted by his wifes command to her Bed-ſide.

I underſtand (ſaid ſhe) by my Maid, that you are my Brother Strenuo, *whom fame long ſince had reported dead, but we will pardon her that good lie which is better then a truth: I am hartily ſorry at your brothers abſence,*

and more, that my indiſpoſition is the cauſe thereof; never was poor woman more rich in the affections of a loving husband, though hitherto I have lived his wife, I ſhall hereafter demean my ſelfe as his ſervant, to deſerve ſome part of his pains in my behalfe: no dangers at Land, no tempeſts at Sea, have deterred him from undertaking a long journey into Italy, *thence to fetch neceſſaries for my recovery; but aſſure your ſelfe.* and here ſhe gave ſo great a groan, as brake off the intireneſſe of her diſcourſe, till after the taking of a Cordiall, ſhee began again.

Pardon good brother my unmannerlineſſe in my abrupt diſ-

courſe,

courſes, ſickneſſe carrieth with it
its owne diſpenſatory for ſuch in-
civilities, I have almoſt forgotten
what I ſaid laſt; but ſhall never
forget the laſting love of my hus-
band unto me, nor have I any bet-
ter way to expreſſe my affection
in his abſence, then by uſing you
with all the reſpect my preſent
condition can afford: you are too
noble to meaſure your welcome by
your entertainment, and know full
well ſervants will not be found,
where the Miſtreſſe is ſick; if they
faile of my deſires, their duty, or
your deſerts; in their attendance on
you, it is in your power either to
pardon or puniſh them, to whoſe
ſole diſpoſall I commit the family,
and command the keyes of all the

roomes

roonies to be tendred unto you; and now indeed Sir, the more I look on you, the more I like you, the more I love you: your mother never wronged your father I dare boldly affirm, so like you are in stature and complexion unto my husband, that were it not for the difference of your habit, I should believe you to be the same.

Alas Sister (said he) I am two years older then your husband by age, ten years by infirmity; read the difference between a gown-man and a sword-man, your husband sat wrapt in his furrs in his study, I exposed to wind and weather in the field, he hath heard the brawles at the barre, I have born the brunts in the fight; how often lay I perdue

in

in the three yeares ſiege of Oſtend? *how many ounces of blood loſt I at the fight at* Newport? *On my faith I am not able to count them: no wonder then if my face be pinke, where my Brothers is plain, and if mine be furrowed with age, where his lyeth ſmooth and whole: howſoever I confeſs there were formerly great reſemblances in our features, the ruins whereof are not ſo wholly defaced, but that ſome ſtill remain.*

Night came on, his entertainment was harty, his chamber fully furniſhed with nightly accommodations, and nothing out of order therein ſave himſelfe deſperately penſive at his returne, accurſes *Vejeto* with cauſeleſſe ſuſpicion, and condemnes his owne credulity, he railes in his thoughts at the colour of yellow,

which

which never was admitted into the Rain-bow, as too earthly and baſe a dye, and verily believes, men create cauſleſſe fears to themſelves, undeſerved by their wives; nor can he ſleep being troubled with his own unworthineſſe, to wrong ſo chaſt, ſo ſpotleſſe, ſo vertuous a wife, with his undeſerved ſuſpicion.

Next day *Don Nicholayo*, comes on a civill viſit to *Sabina*, brings with him a *Spaniſh Colonell*, who had long been an officer in the low-countrey wars, and ſometimes under-Governour of *Dunkirk* therein; he hearing of *Don Sirenuo's* coming out of the country, deſires to converſe with him, requeſting him to give the character of the preſent ſtate of the *Infanta's* Court at *Bruxels*: I deſire alſo ſaith the Collonell, to rub over and renew my old *Dutch* language, whereof I have made no uſe theſe laſt ſeven yeats, and am afraid I have partly forgotten it, and there-

upon

upon he enters upon a large *Dutch* diſcourſe, though *Facundo* was ſo farre from anſwering, that he underſtood not one word thereof.

Facundo anſwered in his own tongue. Don Olanzo (*for that I underſtand is your name*) *you muſt excuſe me for making any return in the* Dutch *tongue, whereof I will give you this particular account: When firſt I entered into thoſe warrs, I made a ſolemn vow with my ſelfe never to learn or ſpeak a word of that language, for I conceive it a degrading of my tongue to bow to their low expreſſions, and I admire that any* Spaniard *will offer to diſhonour himſelf by condeſcending thereunto; Conquerors ought to impoſe a language*

on

on a countrey and not to receive it thence: the valiant Romans never learnt the Gaules *tongue, or the punick language, this consideration hardned me in my resolution, that my tongue should be dumb in* Dutch, *a tongue wherein there is such confluence of consonants, so long, so hard, and so harsh, that it seemeth to me rather made for conjuring then converse, and fitter for Devills then men to discourse therein.*

Don Olanzo civilly declined more *Dutch*, and proceeded in his owne tongue to sift *Facundo*, desiring him to proceed in the present character of the country.

the only matter of moment, the siege still continueth, we have built three halfe Moons, and a Redoubt, between the windmill and the Key, but the trench from Saint Dominicks to the counter-gate is not yet perfected; the English out of the town exerciseth us with daily sallies, and behave themselves very valiantly, the worst can be said of them they are our enemies; Meat beginneth to faile them much, and Munition, as we are credibly informed by the fugitives which daily repair to us out of the Town; the Count of Aremberg is daily expected with a recruit of two thousand foot, the Pioneeres out of Luckland are daily expected, and then have at a new mine for

the

the Caſtle, when all our forces are compleated, we ſhall put it to a deſperate aſſault.

Don Olanzo not contented with theſe general heads, wherewith a mā might furniſh himſelfe out of the weekly news-bookes, began to preſs him to the particular deſcription of ſome places in *Brabant*, and *Flanders*. Now though *Facundo* was well book-learned, ſo farre as Mapps could inſtruct him, yet was it impoſſible that they could inform him in all particulars of places and buildings: *Facundo* begins to faulter, the other proſecuted him with the cruelty of a prevailing coward, and at length breaking into ſome Choller and paſſion, caught hold of his beard, which having no better title to his face then glue could afford it, preſently fell off, and diſcovered him to be what he was.

Sabina

Sabina all this while lay in her bed listening to their discourse, which sometimes she disturbs with her groans and sighs, but now her husbands deceit being laid open, *Facundo* loaden with grief and guiltinesse, falleth down on his knees, & craves pardon of his wife.

Strange it is to see how poor spirits descend beneath themselves? but upon his submission and acknowledgment of his fault, a pardon is signed and sealed unto him, upon condition he should reassume his journey, which next day with all possible speed he undertook, and we leave him making what speed he might to the place for which he was bound.

The next day *Sabina* falleth truly and really sick, it is ill jesting with edg-tooles, that which we play with in sport, may wound us in earnest: *Don Nicholayo* repaires unto her, with full intent to enjoy his pleasure, and

that

that nothing but his owne moderation ſhould ſet bounds thereunto, when he meets with an unexpected repulſe, *Sabina* complaining of the intolerable torture, which diſpoſed her rather for a Coffin then amarous embraces.

I confeſſe, ſaith Don Nicholayo, *were I not privy unto this diſſembling, yea the prime procurer and contriver thereof, I ſhould my ſelfe verily beleeve thee really ſick: O how farre your ſex tra ñ ſcend ours in diſſimulation? we do it ſo dully, ſo improperly, that we are lyable to diſcovery, you exceed your ſelves in what you pleaſe.*

But Sir, returnes Sabina, *miſtake me not (I cannot ſay by the faith*

faith of a loyall wife, having to my shame and grief, forfeited that title) but hywhatever can be true and dear unto me, I vow and protest my selfe so sick, that nature scarce affordeth me ability to expresse my owne sickneſſe.

You will alwaies be a woman, saith Nicholayo, *who generally over-do or under-do what they undertake, hardly hitting on a mean, whose soules are either empty or over-flow; it is high time now to put off your vizard, and be what you are*: And with that he offered a familiar violence unto her, as supposing she expected some acceptable force, to bee seemingly prest to what she desired.

Con-

Content your ſelfe ſaid Sabina, or my ſhreeches ſhall give an Alarum to the Family: Know Sir, I never loved you ſo much, as now I loath your looks, and deteſt the ſight of you, too much to my ſhame and grief hath formerly paſſed between us, but now I am reſolved not to proceed in that vitious courſe, but aſmuch as penitency can make a harlot honeſt, to unſtaine my ſoul from my former offences; my time is ſhort, depart the room, and prevent my ſending you away.

Don Nicholayo ſtandeth amazed, who could expect that the wind could blow at ſuch a point of the compaſſe? a cold wind indeed to nip the heat of his luſt; yet he ſeeth

no

no remedie but to comply with the preſent occaſion, & goes home with a ſoule divided between griefe, anger and wonder, though the latter may ſeeme to claime the greateſt ſhare in him at ſo ſtrange and unexpected an accident. *Sabina* preſently diſpatcheth a Servant to overtake her husband, requeſting him by all *Loves* to returne with all poſſible ſpeede, for ſhe had ſome important ſecrets to unboſome to him, nor could quietly depart this world before the imparting thereof unto him.

Facundo feares ſome fraud in the matter, refuſeth to returne: Indeed the ſervant accoſted him with his Meſſage in that very minut wherein he was taking Ship; the wind ſerving faire, and moſt of his goods ſhipt already. At laſt the ſervant gave ſuch aſſurance of his Miſtreſſes ſickneſſe, and ſo impotunately preſſed him with thoſe arguments bor-

borrowed from her, that *Facundo* returnes that night home; the roome is voided, when *Sabina* begins with tears in her eyes, moistening her words as she uttered them.

What tearm shall I call you by? husband I am ashamed to stile you, the mention whereof woundeth my own heart with the memory of my unworthinesse; friend is too familiar a title; Lord and Master too terrible to me, a false deceitfull servant; stile your selfe Sir what you please, I am your wretched vassal, and want words to expresse the foulnesse of my offence against you: I am ashamed to speak what I blushed not to do, who have lived in a course of inconstancy for many years with Don Nicho-

Nicholayo: *and with my dissembling have put you to much trouble and paines Pardon is too great for me to ask, but not for you to give. I confesse they that once have bankrupt their owne credit, can give no security for the future, that they will be responsible to such as trust them; however Sir know, I place more hope of speeding in in my request, in your goodnesse then the Equity of my Petition. If life be lent me, which in my owne apprehension (and every one is best sensible of their own condition) is utterly unlikely, I shall utterly deserve some part of your kindnesse; Sir, can you not see through the chinkes of my broken body, my very heart inditing my*

words assure your self--- and there she fainted. Servants were called in, and much adoe with *Aqua vitæ* they courted and wooed her soul not to depart her body, which was so sullen that it would hardly be perswaded to stay, though at last prevailed upon

Although the Passages betweene *Facundo* and *Sabina*, were transacted with all possible secrecy; yet could they not be so privately carried, but that some in the house overhearing it, it crept through the *Family*, and went thorough the City of *Barcellona*, and at last through the whole Province of *Catalonia*. And now *Vejeto* is found a true friend, and begins to flourish, being formerly so depress't by the greatnesse of *Nicholayo*, that he took no comfort in himself

self, and had abandoned his City house, and retired into the Country; but now he returnes to *Barcellona* again, falls a building and repairing his house, to outface his neighbour *Nicholayo*, making the same both larger beneath with Vaults, and higher above with Magnificent superstructures.

Don Nicholayo inraged in his mind with the discovery which *Sabina* had made, and seeing himself slighted in his reputation: and fearing lest the King of *Spain* (the Court having gotten intelligence thereof) should disseize him of his *Governors* place of *Barcellona*, which his Ancestors had for three descents possessed, almost to make the honour hereditary) resolves on a designe, which present passion prompted unto him, and thus he effected it. *Jacundo* was late at night, drawing up some conveyances for Land (which the City exchanged with

the Crown in the Town house) and the imployment was certain to ingrosse him untill the next morning, which was the last day of the terme, assigned for the compleating thereof; All *Sabinas* servants were by her Nurse (that *Pandoras* to her former wantonnesse, and still an active instrument for *Don Nicholayo*) sent upon severall errands to places of some distance, and she alone left to attend her Mistress. In springs *Nicholayo* with two robustuous servants, and with violence carries away *Sabina* muffled in carpets (threatning her with present death, at the least resistance or noise) to the house of *Nicholayo*: yet had he now no design of lust upon her; whose revenge had banished his wantonness; And bringing her into his Hall about midnight, a stone there is taken up and she tumbled down into a Vault which I know not whether to call a *Dungeon* or a *Charnell-house* (many in-

innocents having formerly been dispatched in the same place) *Nicholayo* conceiving that either she would be killed with the fall, or else starved to death in the place.

Now there was in *Barcellona* an Abbot of a Church, *Jago Domingo* preferred to that place by *Nicholayo*; rather by the others favour then his deserts; for guilt had made *Patron* and *Chaplain* mutually great together; they being both often complicated in the same act of baseness, wherein they served each the turn of the other; they were nailed together with necessary secresie: so that what friendship did act in others, fear acted in them, to contribute their reciprocall assistance in all designes, seeing the lender to day was the borrower to morrow; These two plot together, and lay the scene of the ensuing project. At *Matten*-service when their Covent was singing together in the Ab-

bots Church, suddenly their harmony was disturbed by an obstreperous voice which seemed to proceed from a wall above the *Quire*: the voice spake horror and griefe, and pain, shreeking out shrill, and then the noise of ratling of chaines and the chinking of Irons were alternately heard. Which indeed was nothing else but an instructed *Novice* placed there by the *Abbot* in a concealed concavity to play his part, according to his received directions. The Fryers for fear shorten their service and betake themselves to their Cells in amazement, as utterly ignorant of the fraud: The *Abbot* his *Novice* and *Don Nicholayo* being onely privy thereunto.

Next day, the Fryers meeting at *Mattens*, the same noise was heard again, but lowder then before, with a clashing and gnashing, speaking a mixture of pain and indignation; the Fryers hardly held out their ser-

vice, wherein wonder so spoil'd their devotion, that as at other times the lay People knew not what they said, so now for fear they scarce understood themselves.

The next day was a publique Festivall, wherein all the Gentry of *Barcellona* met there (save *Facundo* who went not out of his house, being transported with griefe and amazement, what should become of his invisible wife,) the spirit proceeding as formerly in shriekes; an *Exorcist* was provided, who by the vertue of holy water and other trinkets, took upon him to catechise and examine the spirit what he was, conjuring it by the power of his spells to answer the truth, and all the truth at its own perill, if concealing any part thereof.

I am sorry (said the voice in the wall) *the soule of Sabina,*

Justly tormented in Purgatory, as for my many faults, so chiefly for raising a damnable and notorious lye on Don Nicholayo, *as if he had conversed dishonestly with me. I had been hurried to a worse place, as having nothing to plead in my mine own behalfe, but that I alledged that this scandall was never raised by my own invention, but put into my mouth by* Vejetto, *and he the Parent, shee onely the Nurse thereof. And here I am condemned to intollerable torment without al possibility of release, untill first some signall punishment be laid on* Vejetto; *it being the method of this Court, that the accessary cannot be released, until the principall first be punished. I am also*

enjoyned

enjoined to make publique confession of my fault, and to request Don Nicholayo freely to forgive me, without which my enlargement cannot be procured. And therefore I humbly request this Covent for sanctity most highly prized, to join with me in my Petition; that that honorable and worthy Lord would be pleased freely to remit my fault herein; I am also to desire you to intreat my husband Facundo that he would be pleased to confer on this Covent his Vineyard, lying on the East side of the City between the gate and the River Riodulce, that so by the dayly intercession of their suffrages, I may be freed from my torture.

The *Exorcist* preſt this ſhee Spirit to more particulars, as to know whether her husband *Facundo* did not concurre with *Vejetto* to advance the defamation.

The Spirit anſwered, that never woman was happier in a better husband, and that ſhe would not adde to her fault and paines to belie him, he was utterly ignorant thereof, and had ever retained a true opinion of her faithfulneſſe, had not *Vejettoes* malice rooted it out, with conſtant and cauſeleſs ſuggeſtions.

The *Exorciſt* proceeded to demand what was become of her body, ſeeing the report had filled the City that it was no where to be found, and a ſuſpition was raiſed, that her husband or her ſervants were guilty of conveying it away, after they had offer'd ſome violence to her perſon.

Let me not (said she) *wilfully heap punishments on my self, I must acquit my husband as altogether innocent, nor can I charge my servants (all whose prayers I humbly desire for the assoiling of my soul) for the least wrong offered unto me; the truth is, an evill spirit violently tooke me away, both soul and body, that my punishment might be exemplary and unusuall, as my fault was above the proportion of common offenders.*

The *Exorcist* demanded of her, whether any other besides *Vejetto* had with him joined in that bad advise?

To which she returned that the time

time allotted for her imprisoned liberty was now expired, being assigned but three hours for the begging of the votes of three severall daies of mankind to help her in her extremity; that now she must return as Prisoner, carrying fetters about her to the place of her restraint; never more to appear or be heard more in this world: and with that giving a hideous screek, and ratling her fetters, she took a sad farewell of the place, leaving all that heard it to admiration.

It is strange to conceive how the female sex of *Barcellona* were affected hereat; all conclude that *Fadrique* was bound in honour and conscience, to satisfie her request. And some

some of her kindred brought Abbot *Jago Domingo* unto his house, to move him in conformity to his wives desire, to settle the *Vineyard* on their Covent as a reward of their meritorious prayers for his wives enlargement.

Long had the *Abbot* cast a covetous eye upon this *Vineyard* as a little Paradice; for the pleasure and situation thereof; it might for the distance from *Barcellona* be termed the City in the Country, or the Country in the City. It lay on the side of a *Hill* which knew it own distance to ascend above the *level*, yet was not overproud to aspire to a barren heighth. It beheld the rising Sun which is apprehended the most cordiall, when the Virgin beams thereof, uninfected with the vapours of the Earth, first enters on our hemisphere. A wood was in the middle thereof, whereon *Facundo* had bestowed much cost, making many

La-

Labyrinths and artificiall *mazes*: An *Aviary* also hee made therein stocking it with Birds from all Countries; So that some thought (abating onely the *Phœnix*) that the whole kind of Birds, if decayed, might have been recruited hence. A Riveter, called *Riodulca*, slided through the midst thereof; and seemed so pleased with the same, that loath to depart from so delicious a place; it purposely lengthned its own journey, by fetching many needless *flexures*, *windings*, and *windings* therein, as if it intended to show that water could be more wanton then the wood under which it was passed: A banqueting house also was made in the middle thereof, with a *Fountain* and *Stairs* of *Marble*; where *stones* were taught to speak by water-works brought by a device into them.

True it is, many questioned the discretion of *Pacundo* in expending so much cost on that which severer

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folke accounted but a chargeable toy, paying many *pieces of eight* for every pint of *wine* that grew therin; others excused him, that being childlesse, and having a plentifull estate, this was not onely harmlesse, but a usefull evacuation of his wealth; many poor people being used in the making, as also in the keeping of this *Vineyard*. But that which most pleaded for his expensiveneſſe herein, and justly indeered him to the place, and the place to him, was, that it had been in the name of the *Osorio's* three hundred years and upwards; and he had an Evidence in his house not exceeding a span of Parchment in length, and three inches in breadth (so concise was Antiquity in conveying of lands) wherein *John King of Castile* bestowed this Land on *Andrea Osorio* for defending the high Tower in *Barcellona* once against the *French*, and twice against the *Moores*. Pardon

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cundo therefore if hee loved this place, or was found thereon, seeing doting on it, (the premises considered) was excusable; desiring to trasmit this Land to his *Brothers* Son whom he intended his heir.

Oh what a brave sweet place would this make for *Abot Jago*, his Covent did ever mictbite bad cheese, or were ever *Fryers* such fools as to affect base or barren ground; they will be assured of profit or pleasure, or both, wheresoever they fix themselves. The *Abbot* is earnestly set on this place, and will either be possessed thereof, or els the soul of *Facundo*'s wife should be left tormented in the place where it was.

Her *Kindred* assault *Facundo* with much importunity to estate this Land on the Covent, which he utterly refused to do; not denying to disburse a competent sum of money: but pardon him if he will not part with his inheritance; But this or nothing

thing else will please *Iago*, so that they parted in some discontent; yet *Sabina's* friends despair not, but in processe of time to mould him to the *Abbots* desire.

Meane time it would make any honest heart to grieve, though nothing related unto him, either in Kindred or Country, to see the harsh usage of *Veiето*, how hee was hurried to the Jaile in most ignominious manner; scarce any in the City so young or so old, but would adventure to behold so vitious, so wicked a slanderer (for so he was believed to be) brought to punishment, though his imprisonment was conceived but a preface and preamble to a greater penalty (if escaping with death) which would be imposed upon him: *Veiето* made all the beholders to wonder, who did read in his face so much spirit and liveliness, as if he triumphed in his sufferings, and rather pitied others then him-

himself in this his condition, yea, his eyes and cheeks had as well mocks as smiles in them; which made the beholders to conceive, that besides his own innocence he had some further security, not onely to acquit himself, but that his Enemies should come off with shame & disgrace, wch made the Jaylor to demean himself unto him with the better respect.

Within three daies the *Visitor Generall* of the Order was to come to the Covent, and there in all pomp and solemnity to hear the whole Narration of the matter.

Now let us look a little backward, to acquaint you with the true cause of *Vejeto* his mirth in these troubles, who indeed had sufficient ground therof. We formerly told how *Vejeto* after his return out of the Country, began to beautifie and enlarge his his house; In sinking a Cellar, he stood by the workmen, partly to encourage them with his presence, part-

partly to behold the effects of their discovery, the place being concavous, the ruines of some great structure, formerly levell with the ground, though now sunk some yards beneath the same. But the generall report was that it had been a *Castle* in the time of *Julius Cæsar*, when *Barcellona* was a *Roman Colonie*, and priviledged with municipall immunities. *Vejeto* had a great fancy in *Roman Coines*, and would give any thing to such as could produce him any variety herein; yet his fancy was not above his judgement, but hee was very criticall therein, and had an exact and true eye to discover between true and counterfeits, *Casts*, and Originalls: But oh for a *Galba*, whose short raigne made his Coines the greatest rarity; and *Vejeto* had a *set* of Coines with a continuall succession of all the *Roman Emperors*, *Galba* onely excepted. The workmen find two or thre Coines of *Antoni-*

nus, the forerunners as *Vejeto* hoped and expected of more to enſue; but theſe poor ſoules beheld them as *Æſops Cock* did the pearl, not knowing how to valew them; when *Vejeto* conceiving theſe the *Vancurriers* of an Army, and the earneſt of a greater payment; though truly not ſo much out of covetouſneſſe as curioſity, diſmiſſed them that night, the night indeed diſmiſſing them (it being late enough to leave work) and enjoining them to return next morning.

All his ſervants being aſleep, he alone with his eldeſt Son *Speano*, turn *Pioneers* to dig ſomewhat deep, and to lift the rubbiſh therin. It happens that pierced a hollow place (& hollowneſſe being a great friend to the conveying of a ſound) they hear a ſtrang noiſe, too big for a Child, too ſmall for a man; this noiſe was ſeconded with ſome light, but ſo doubtfull and glimmering, that it con-

conquered darkneſſe but one degree, *Veje.o* with his ſon enter the Vault, (what ſhould innocence be afraid of?) The Father was aſhamed to betray fear in the preſence of his Son, as having more experience, the Sonne ſcorned to bewray fear in the preſence of his Father, having his youthfull blood and ſpirit to ſupport him; together they both ſo order the matter, that they went into the Vault, putting out their candle which led them, and reſolved in darkneſſe and ſilence to expect the Event of the matter.

Down ſomthing tumbled, and preſently all light vaniſhed, and they for a time, ſet ſtill to concoct with themſelves, the rawneſſe of ſo ſtrange an accident.

Preſently they hear a groan, ſuch as ſpeak the Soul, neither friend nor foe to the Body, but ſuch a diſtance between both, as if willing to depart. *Vejetu* enjoines his Son as young-

younger and abler to adventure to bring forth whatever it was, and up it is carried (not knowing as yet how to stile it, *Him*, or *Her*.) On the lighting of a Candle this bulk appears a woman, but much maimed, her right arme and left legge being broken.

What difference is there between the same Body in health, and in sickneſſe, between the same cloathed and naked, when ornaments of Art are uſed unto it, or when it is left to the dreſſing of nature? *Vejeto* knowes no more hereof then *Woman*, and never remembers that hee had ſeen the face before; yet they omit not what art could do, to reſtore her to life, which ſucceeded according to their deſire, ſhe is conveyed to a Bed, and no accommodations are wanting which might tend to the ſpeeding of her recovery. At laſt he knoweth her for *Sabina*, before ſhee knew her ſelfe; wonder not at her

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Ignorance, who had pass'd through so many worlds, it being a greater wonder that she was alive, then that she did not know where she was or what was become of her selfe, no Physick nor surgery is wanting to restore her to her former health.

True it is, *Vejeto* would not make use of any out of his own dores, for the better concealing of the matter, but his own wife *Oliva*, being excellent above her sex at such performances, indeed shee had never read *Hippocrates*, or *Galen*, in *Greek*; yet was she one who by kitchen Physick did many and cheap cures to poor people, taking onely their thanks, (and that onely if they were willingly pleased to give it for the reward) from Physick shee proceeded to surgery, & was no lesse successful therein, this made many to hate her, who were of that profession; whilst she cared the lesse for their hatred, as over-ballanced with the love and re-

respect with others, but the poor especially did bear unto her.

Sabina is privately concealed here for some daies, whilst *Vejeto* as we have formerly mentioned was carried to Prison, where *Oliva* daily visited him, and it was the generall expectation of the people, that forfeiture of his estate was all the mercy justice could afford him.

And now *Abbot Iago* is busie in preparing entertainment for *Padre Antonio, Bishop of Lerma*, and Visitor Generall of his order, but especially of this Covent, in *Barcellona*, which three hundred years since was founded by a Bishop of *Lerma*, leaving to his Successors the hereditary power of inspection over the fames to adde, alter, translate Orders and persons therein, as advised by their own discretion. *Padre Antonio* was generally hated by the Friers for his severity and austerity of life, being over rigorous in the observation

tion of the conformity thereof, hee would not abate them any point, but confined them to the height of obſervances: onely this preſerved his reputation with Religious men, that he uſed others no worſe then himſelf, *practizing* in his own perſon what he *preſcribed* in others, leaving an example of abſtinence to all the Country.

No wonder if the Trewants ſhake when the Schoolmaſter cometh among them: *Abbot Iago* is jealous that ſome flaw will be found in him, to out him of his place, being conſcious to himſelf of many Enormities: for though he walked by that rule, *if not chaſtly*, yet *cautiouſly*, he managed his matters with all poſſible privacie; yet hee ſuſpected that Goldſmiths would not receive that falſe Coine wherewith common people are deluded, and the ſharpe judgement of *Antonio* quickly diſcover that which was inviſible to common eyes;

wherefore to mollifie him in his visitation, by two Fryers he sent him a *present* of rich plate to the value of five hundred *Crusadoes*. *Antonio* refuseth the acceptance, charging the Friers to return it, adding withall that if *Iago* had observed the vow of poverty, according to his order, hee could not have atchieved so great an estate.

Three daies after the Visitor comes to *Barc llona* on foot, unattended save with one servant alone; forth rode the *Abbot* to meet him on his *Mule*, and most of their Covent in like maner together with the *Officers* of their house, and all *Dependents* of the same, to the number of sixty persons; These expected to have met the Visitor in so solemn an Equipage, as had been observed by his *Predecessors*, and finding their expectation confused, *Iago* was much discomposed thereat, and so disturbed in his mind, that he forgot that pre-

premeditated Oration which he had artificially pen'd for the Visitors entertainment.

Here *Iago* profered the *Visitor* the conveniencie of his *Mule*, which he refused, adding with a sterne countenance, that so much pomp and state became not men of his profession; conducted hee was into the Covent, where such a supper was provided for him, as had made provisions dear in the Town; The *Visitor* commanded the poor people to be called thither, on whom he bestowed all the *cheer*, betaking himself to some mean *Viands* which hee brought with him, and thereon took a sparing refection.

Next day the Court was kept, and severall misdemeanors were presented unto him. *Don Nicholayo* complained to the *Visitor* of the high offence of *Vejeto*. For although the power of the *Visitor* extended only to the Covent, yet lately he was impoured

poured with a Commission from the *Conclave*, to take into consideration all business in the City, which any way related to the late wonder of the spirit in the wall, and to proceed against all persons concerned therein, as he should see cause for the same.

Vejeto is sent for out of prison, and his fault inflamed to the height by the *Rhetorick* of a young *Advocate*, retained by *Don Nicholayo*, to set forth the hainousnesse of the offence; being demanded what hee could say for himself, he requested that one witnesse might be produced, and her testimony solemnly taken, which seemed so equall a motion, that it could not any waies be denyed.

Presently he bringeth forth *Sabina* by the hand (who stood by but disguised and concealed) tendring her there to the *Visitor*, to make a Narration of the whole story.

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The *Visitor* is for a while so taken up with wonder, that his soul was at leisure to do nothing else but admire, to see one reported dead and carried away soul and body, alive and in good health; *Facundo* standing by, requested the *Visitor* to favour him, if hee transgressed the gravity of that Court, by bestowing a salutation on his dear wife; being confident that the strangeness of the accident would sufficiently plead for his presumption therein. Next day the *Visitor* proceeds to censure. First *Abbot Iago* was expell'd his Covent, and condemned to perpetuall imprisonment: it is thought it had cost him his life, had not some reverence and respect to his order mitigated the censure. The *Novice* in the wall as yet was but a probationer, & not entred in the orders, was condemned to be publiquely whipt in the market place of *Barcellona*, being all the blood that was shed in this Co-

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micall ſtory. The *Exorciſt* pleaded his own innocence, as not privy to the cheat, and that he onely proceeded according to the rules of his owne Art, whoſe plea was accepted. *Don Nicholayo*, becauſe a perſon of great honor, highly deſcended and allied, was remitted by the *Viſitor* to the Kings diſpoſall, and ſent Priſoner to *Madrid*, where he was ordered to loſe his Office, and fined *ten thouſand Cruſa oes* to the *King*, and *five thouſand Cruſadoes* to *Facundo*; *Vejeto* was deputed to ſucceed *Nicholayo* in the *Governors place of Barcellona*; *Facundo* ſomething to compenſate her patience, was promoted to be *Advocate Generall of Catalonia*. The *Nurſe* of *Sabina* privy to the plot pleaded the age of ſeventy, and under the protection thereof, at *Sabina's* humble intreaty was pardoned; *Infido* a cheating ſervant of *Vejeto*, who had oftentimes betrayed his Maſter ſecrets, wsa branded in the face

with

with *F. S. falſe ſervant. Facundo* and *Sabina* lived many years together in Love and Credit, and whereas formerly ſhe was iſſueleſſe, made her husband afterward happy with a numerous poſterity.

FINIS.